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(54) Huntingtin DNA, protein and uses thereof

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#### Description

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#### Field of the Invention

[0001] The invention is in the field of the detection and treatment of genetic diseases. Specifically, the invention is directed to the *huntingtin* gene (also called the IT15 gene), huntingtin protein encoded by such gene, and the use of this gene and protein in assays (1) for the detection of a predisposition to develop Huntington's disease, (2) for the diagnosis of Huntington's disease (3) for the treatment of Huntington's disease, and (4) for monitoring the course of treatment of such treatment.

### Background of the Invention

[0002] Huntington's disease (HD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by motor disturbance, cognitive loss and psychiatric manifestations (Martin and Gusella, *N. Engl. J. Med.* 315:1267-1276 (1986). It is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion, and affects about 1/10,000 individuals in most populations of European origin (Harper, P.S. et al., in *Huntington's disease*, W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1991). The hallmark of HD is a distinctive choreic movement disorder that typically has a subtle, insidious onset in the fourth to fifth decade of life and gradually worsens over a course of 10 to 20 years until death. Occasionally, HD is expressed in juveniles typically manifesting with more severe symptoms including rigidity and a more rapid course. Juvenile onset of HD is associated with a preponderance of paternal transmission of the disease allele. The neuropathology of HD also displays a distinctive pattern, with selective loss of neurons that is most severe in the caudate and putamen regions of the brain. The biochemical basis for neuronal death in HD has not yet been explained, and there is consequently no treatment effective in delaying or preventing the onset and progression of this devastating disorder.

[0003] The genetic defect causing HD was assigned to chromosome 4 in 1983 in one of the first successes of linkage analysis using polymorphic DNA markers in man (Gusella et al., Nature 306:234-238 (1983). Since that time, we have pursued a location cloning approach to isolating and characterizing the HD gene based on progressively refining its localization (Gusella, FASEB J. 3:2036-2041 (1989); Gusella, Adv. Hum. Genet. 20:125-151 (1991)). Among other work, this has involved the generation of new genetic markers in the region by a number of techniques (Pohl et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 16:9185-9198 (1988); Whaley et al., Somat. Cell. Mol. Genet. 17:83-91 (1991); MacDonald et al., J. Clin. Inv. 84:1013-1016 (1989)), the establishment of genetic (MacDonald et al., Neuron 3:183-190(1989); Allitto et al., Genomics 9:104-112 (1991)) and physical maps of the implicated regions (Bucan et al., Genomics 6:1-15 (1990); Bates et al., Nature Genet. 1:180-187 (1992); Doucette-Stamm et al., Somat. Cell Mol. Genet. 17:471-480 (1991); Altherr et al., Genomics 13:1040-1046 (1992)), the cloning of the 4p telomere of an HD chromosome in a YAC clone (Bates et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. 46:762-775 (1990); Youngman et al., Genomics 14:350-356 (1992)), the establishment of YAC [yeast artificial chromosome] (Bates et al., Nature Genet. 1:180-187 (1992)) and cosmid (Baxendale et al., in preparation) contigs (a series of overlapping clones which together form a whole sequence) of the candidate region, as well as the analysis and characterization of a number of candidate genes from the region (Thompson et al., Genomics 11:1133-1142 (1991); Taylor et al., Nature Genet. 2:223-227 (1992); Ambrose et al., Hum. Mol. Genet. 1:697-703 (1992)). Analysis of recombination events in HD kindreds has identified a candidate region of 2.2 Mb, between D4S10 and D4S98 in 4p16.3, as the most likely position of the HD gene (MacDonald et al., Neuron 3:183-190 (1989); Bates et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. 49:7-16 (1991); Snell et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. 51:357-362 (1992)). Investigations of linkage disequilibrium between HD and DNA markers in 4p16.3 (Snell et al., J. Med. Genet. 26:673-675 (1989); Theilman et al., J. Med. Genet. 26:676-681 (1989)) have suggested that multiple mutations have occurred to cause the disorder (MacDonald et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. 49:723-734 (1991)). However, haplotype analysis using multi-allele markers has indicated that at least 1/3 of HD chromosomes are ancestrally related (MacDonald et al., Nature Genet. 1: 99-103 (1992)). The haplotype shared by these HD chromosomes points to a 500 kb segment between D4S180 and D4S182 as the most likely site of the genetic defect.

[0004] Targeting this 500 kb region for saturation with gene transcripts, exon amplification has been used as a rapid method for obtaining candidate coding sequences (Buckler et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88:4005-4009 (1991)). This strategy has previously identified three genes: the a-adducin gene (ADDA) (Taylor et al., Nature Genet. 2:223-227 (1992)); a putative novel transporter gene (IT10C3) in the distal portion of this segment; and a novel G protein-coupled receptor kinase gene (IT11) in the central portion (Ambrose et al., Hum. Mol. Genet. 1:697-703 (1992)). However, no defects implicating any of these genes as the HD locus have been found.

### Summary of the Invention

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[0005] A large gene, termed herein "huntingtin" or "IT15," has been identified that spans about 210 kb and encodes a previously undescribed protein of about 348 kDa. The huntingtin reading frame contains a polymorphic (CAG)<sub>n</sub> tri-

nucleotide repeat with at least 17 alleles in the normal population, varying from 11 to about 34 CAG copies. On HD chromosomes, the length of the trinucleotide repeat is substantially increased, for example about 37 to at least 73 copies, and shows an apparent correlation with age of onset, the longest segments are detected in juvenile HD cases. The instability in length of the repeat is reminiscent of similar trinucleotide repeats in the fragile X syndrome and in myotonic dystrophy (Suthers *et al., J. Med. Genet.* 29:761-765 (1992)). The presence of an unstable, expandable trinucleotide repeat on HD chromosomes in the region of strongest linkage disequilibrium with the disorder suggests that this alteration underlies the dominant phenotype of HD, and that huntingtin encodes the HD gene.

[0006] The invention is directed to the protein huntingtin, DNA and RNA encoding this protein, and uses thereof.

[0007] According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an isolated, purified or recombinant huntingtin polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:6.

**[0008]** According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an isolated, purified or recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a huntingtin nucleic acid molecule encoding a huntingtin polypeptide in accordance with the first aspect of the invention, or its complementary strand.

[0009] Preferably, the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid shown in SEQ ID NO:5, and may comprise a transcriptional control region operably linked to the huntingtin nucleic acid molecule.

**[0010]** The invention also provides, in a third aspect, a vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of the second aspect of the invention. In this vector, the nucleic acid molecule may be operably linked to transcriptional and/or translational expression signals.

[0011] In a fourth aspect, the invention provides a host cell transformed or transfected with a vector according to the third aspect of the invention.

[0012] In fifth and sixth aspects, the invention also provides an antibody specific for huntingtin polypeptide of the first aspect, and a hybridoma which produces such an antibody.

[0013] According to a seventh aspect, the invention provides a method of detecting the presence of, or predisposition to develop, Huntington's disease in a subject, the method comprising

(a) evaluating the characteristics of huntingtin nucleic acid in a sample from the subject, wherein the evaluation comprises detecting the huntingtin  $(CAG)_n$  region shown in SEQ ID NO:5 in the sample; and

(b) comparing the characteristics found in (a) with a similar analysis from an individual with no family history of Huntington's disease, where the nucleic acid has from 11 to 34 (CAG) repeats, the presence of, or predisposition to develop, Huntington's disease being indicated if those characteristics in the huntingtin (CAG)<sub>n</sub> region differ. The characteristics of huntingtin nucleic acid may be evaluated by Southern blot, northern blot, or polymerase chain reaction analysis.

[0014] In an eighth aspect, the invention provides the use of:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule of the second aspect or a vector of the third aspect;

(b) a polypeptide of the first aspect; and/or

(c) a host cell of the fourth aspect

in the preparation of a medicament.

**[0015]** The medicament may be for treating, delaying or preventing a neurodegenerative disorder, preferably Huntington's disease, and may be for gene therapy. Preferably, the nucleic acid has from 11 to 34 (CAG) repeats and/or the polypeptide has from 11 to 34 Gln repeats, said repeats being consecutive.

[0016] In a further aspect, the invention provides a diagnostic and/or immunoassay kit comprising at least one container and;

- (a) a nucleic acid molecule of the second aspect, optionally labelled; or
- (b) an antibody of the fifth aspect, optionally labelled.

[0017] In a still further aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid molecule of the second aspect or a vector of the third aspect;
- (b) a polypeptide of the first aspect; and/or
- (c) a host cell of the fourth aspect in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

[0018] In a yet further aspect, the invention provides process for the preparation of a polypeptide of the first aspect of the invention, the process comprising culturing a host cell according to of the fourth aspect under conditions whereby

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the polypeptide is expressed, and purifying or isolating the polypeptide.

**[0019]** A functional *huntingtin* gene with a (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat of the normal range of 11-34 copies may be used in the manufacture of a medicament for gene therapy of a symptomatic or presymptomatic patient, the medicament being for administration to the desired cells of such patient in need of such treatment, in a manner that permits the expression of the huntingtin protein provided by such gene, for a time and in a quantity sufficient to provide the huntingtin function to the cells of such patient. Alternatively, a functional *huntingtin* antisense gene may be used in the manufacture of such a medicament which is for administration to the desired cells of such patient in need of such treatment, in a manner that permits the expression of huntingtin antisense RNA provided by such gene, for a time and in a quantity sufficient to inhibit huntingtin mRNA expression in the cells of such patient, or a functional *huntingtin* gene may be used in the manufacture of such a medicament which is for administration to the cells of such patient in need of such gene; the functional huntingtin gene may contain a (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat size between 11-34 copies.

**[0020]** A method for diagnosing Huntington's disease or a predisposition to develop Huntington's disease in a patient, may comprise determining the number of (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeats present in the huntingtin gene in such patient and especially in the affected tissue of such patient.

[0021] Huntington's disease may be treated in a patient, decreasing the number of huntingtin (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeats in the huntingtin gene in the desired cells of such patient.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

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[0022] FIGURE 1. Long-range restriction map of the *HD* candidate region. A partial long range restriction map of 4p16.3 is shown (adapted from Lin *et al.*, *Somat. Cell Mol. Genet.* 17:481-488 (1991)). The HD candidate region determined by recombination events is depicted as a hatched line between *D4S10* and *D4S98*. The portion of the *HD* candidate region implicated as the site of the defect by linkage disequilibrium haplotype analysis (MacDonald *et al.*, *Nature Genet.* 1:99-103 (1992) is shown as a filled box. Below the map schematic, the region from *D4S180 to D4S182* is expanded to show the cosmid contig (averaging 40 kb/cosmid). The genomic coverage and where known the transcriptional orientation (arrow 5' to 3') of the huntingtin (IT15), IT11, IT10C3 and *ADDA* genes is also shown. Locus names above the map denote selected polymorphic markers that have been used in HD families. The positions of *D4S127* and *D4S95* which form the core of haplotype in the region of maximum disequilibrium are also shown in the cosmid contig. Restriction sites are given for Not I (N), Mlu I (M) and Nru I (R). Sites displaying complete digestion are shown in boldface while sites subject to frequent incomplete digestion are shown as lighter symbols. Brackets around the "N" symbols indicate the presence of additional clustered Not I sites.

[0023] FIGURE 2. Northern blot analysis of the huntingtin (IT15) transcript. Results of the hybridization of IT15A to a Northern blot of RNA from normal (lane 1) and HD homozygous (lane 2 and 3) lymphoblasts are shown. A single RNA of about 11 kb was detected in all three samples, with slight apparent variations being due to unequal RNA concentrations. The HD homozygotes are independent, deriving from the large an American family (lane 2) and the large Venezuelan family (lane 3), respectively. The Venezuelan HD chromosome has a 4p16.3 haplotype of "5 2 2" defined by a (GT)<sub>n</sub> polymorphism at *D4S127* and VNTR and Taql RFLPs at *D4S95*. The American homozygote carries the most common 4p16.3 haplotype found on HD chromosomes: "2 11 1" (MacDonald *et al.*, *Nature Genet.* 1:99-103 (1992)).

[0024] FIGURE 3. Schematic of cDNA clones defining the IT15 transcript. Five cDNAs are represented under a schematic of the composite IT15 sequence. The thin line corresponds to untranslated regions. The thick line corresponds to coding sequence, assuming initiation of translation at the first Met codon in the open reading frame. Stars mark the positions of the following exon clones 5' to 3': DL83D3-8, DL83D3-1, DL228B6-3, DL228B6-5, DL228B6-13, DL69F7-3, DL178H4-6, DL118F5-U and DL134B9-U4.

[0025] The composite sequence was derived as follows. From 22 bases 3' to the putative initiator Met ATG, the sequence was compiled from the cDNA clones and exons shown. There are 9 bases of sequence intervening between the 3' end of IT16B and the 5' end of IT15B. These were by PCR amplification of first strand cDNA and sequencing of the PCR product. At the 5' end of the composite sequence, the cDNA clone IT16C terminates 27 bases upstream of the (CAG)<sub>n</sub>. However, when IT16C was identified, we had already generated genomic sequence surrounding the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> in an attempt to generate new polymorphisms. This sequence matched the IT16C sequence, and extended it 337 bases upstream, including the apparent Met initiation codon.

**[0026]** FIGURE 4. Composite sequence of huntingtin (IT15)(SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6). The composite DNA sequence of huntingtin (IT15) is shown (SEQ ID NO:5). The predicted protein product (SEQ ID NO:6) is shown below the DNA sequence, based on the assumption that translation begins at the first in-frame methionine of the long open reading frame.

[0027] FIGURE 5. DNA sequence analysis of the  $(CAG)_n$  repeat. DNA sequence shown in panels 1, 2 and 3, demonstrates the variation in the  $(CAG)_n$  repeat detected in normal cosmid L191F1 (1), cDNA IT16C (2), and HD cosmid GUS72-2130. Panels 1 and 3 were generated by direct sequencing of cosmid subclones using the following primer

(SEQ ID NO:1):

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### 5' GGC GGG AGA CCG CCA TGG CG 3'.

Panel 2 was generated using the pBSKILT7 primer (SEQ ID NO:2):

### 5' AAT ACG ACT CAC TAT AG 3'.

**[0028]** FIGURE 6. PCR analysis of the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat in a Venezuelan HD sibship with some offspring displaying juvenile onset. Results of PCR analysis of a sibship in the Venezuela HD pedigree are shown. Affected individuals are represented by shaded symbols. Progeny are shown as triangles for confidentiality. AN1, AN2 and AN3 mark the positions of the allelic products from normal chromosomes. AE marks the range of PCR products from the *HD* chromosome. The intensity of background constant bands, which represent a useful reference for comparison of the above PCR products, varies with slight differences in PCR conditions. The PCR products from cosmids L191F1 and GUS72-2130 are loaded in lanes 12 and 13 and have 18 and 48 CAG repeats, respectively.

[0029] FIGURE 7. PCR analysis of the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat in a Venezuelan HD sibship with offspring homozygous for the same *HD* haplotype. Results of PCR analysis of a sibship from the Venezuela HD pedigree in which both parents are affected by HD are shown. Progeny are shown as triangles for confidentiality and no HD diagnostic information is given to preserve the blind status of investigators in the Venezuelan Collaborative Group. AN1 and AN2 mark the positions of the allelic products from normal parental chromosomes. AE marks the range of PCR products from the *HD* chromosome. The PCR products from cosmids L191F1 and GUS72-2130 are loaded in lanes 29 and 30 and have 18 and 48 CAG repeats, respectively.

**[0030]** FIGURE 8. PCR analysis of the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat in members of an American family with an individual homozygous for the major *HD* haplotype. Results of PCR analysis of members of an American family segregating the major HD haplotype. AN marks the range of normal alleles; AE marks the range of *HD* alleles. Lanes 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 represent PCR products from related *HD* heterozygotes. Lane 2 contains the PCR products from a member of the family homozygous for the same *HD* chromosome. Lane 6 contains PCR products from a normal individual. Pedigree relationships and affected status are not presented to preserve confidentiality. The PCR products from cosmids L191F1 and GUS72-2130 (which was derived from the individual represented in lane 2) are loaded in lanes 9 and 10 and have 18 and 48 CAG repeats, respectively.

[0031] FIGURES 9 and 10. PCR analysis of the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat in two families with supposed new mutation causing HD. Results of PCR analysis of two families in which sporadic HD cases representing putative new mutants are shown. Individuals in each pedigree are numbered by generation (Roman numerals) and order in the pedigree. Triangles are used to protect confidentiality. Filled symbols indicate symptomatic individuals. The different chromosomes segregating in the pedigree have been distinguished by extensive typing with polymorphic markers in 4p16.3 and have been assigned arbitrary numbers shown above the gel lanes. The starred chromosomes (3 in Figure 9, 1 in Figure 10) represent the presumed HD chromosome. AN denotes the range of normal alleles; AE denotes the range of alleles present in affected individuals and in their unaffected relatives bearing the same chromosomes.

**[0032]** FIGURE 11. Comparison of  $(CAG)_n$  Repeat Unit Number on Control and HD Chromosomes. Frequency distributions are shown for the number of  $(CAG)_n$  repeat units observed on 425 HD chromosomes from 150 independent families, and from 545 control chromosomes.

[0033] FIGURE 12. Comparison of (CAG)n Repeat Unit Number on Maternally and Paternally Transmitted HD Chromosomes. Frequency distributions are shown for the 134 and 161 HD chromosomes from Figure 11 known to have been transmitted from the mother (Panel A) and father (Panel B), respectively. The two distributions differ significantly based on a t-test ( $t_{272.3}$ =5.34, p < 0.0001).

[0034] FIGURE 13. Comparison of (CAG)<sub>n</sub> Repeat Unit Number on HD Chromosomes from Three Large Families with Different HD Founders. Frequency distributions are shown for 75, 25 and 35 HD chromosomes from the Venezuelan HD family (Panel A) (Gusella, J.F., *et al.*, *Nature 306*:234-238 (1983); Wexler, N.S., *et al.*, *Nature 326*:194-197 (1987)), Family Z (Panel B) and Family D (Panel C) (Folstein, S.E., *et al.*, *Science 229*:776-779 (1985)), respectively. The Venezuelan distribution did not differ from the overall HD chromosome distribution in Figure 11 (t<sub>79.7</sub>=1.58, p <0.12). Both Family Z and Family D did produce distributions significantly different from the overall HD distribution (t<sub>42.2</sub>=6.73, p<0.0001 and t<sub>458</sub>=2.90, p<0.004, respectively).

**[0035]** Figure 14. Relationship of (CAG)<sub>n</sub> Repeat Length in Parents and Corresponding Progeny. Repeat length on the HD chromosome in mothers (Panel A) or fathers (Panel B) is plotted against the repeat length in the corresponding offspring. A total of 25 maternal transmissions and 37 paternal transmissions were available for typing.

[0036] FIGURE 15. Amplification of the HD (CAG)<sub>n</sub> Repeat From Sperm and Lymphoblast DNA. DNA from sperm (S) and lymphoblasts (L) for 5 members (pairs 1-5) of the Venezuelan HD pedigree aged 24-30 were used for PCR amplification of the HD (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat. The lower band in each lane derives from the normal chromosome.

[0037] FIGURE 16. Relationship of Repeat Unit Length with Age of Onset. Age of onset was established for 234 diagnosed HD gene carriers and plotted against the repeat length observed on both the HD and normal chromosomes in the corresponding lymphoblast lines.

#### Detailed Description of the Invention

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[0038] In the following description, reference will be made to various methodologies known to those of skill in the art of molecular genetics and biology.

[0039] The IT15 gene described herein is a gene from the proximal portion of the 500 kb segment between human chromosome 4 markers *D4S180* and *D4S182*. The huntingtin gene spans about 210 kb of DNA and encodes a previously undescribed protein of about 348 kDa. The huntingtin reading frame contains a polymorphic (CAG)<sub>n</sub> trinucleotide repeat with at least 17 alleles in the normal human population, where the repeat number varies from 11 to about 34 CAG copies in such alleles. This is the gene of the human chromosome that, as shown herein, suffers the presence of an unstable, expanded number of CAG trinucleotide repeats in Huntington's disease patients, such that the number of CAG repeats in the huntingtin gene increases to a range of 37 to at least 86 copies. These results are the basis of a conclusion that the huntingtin gene encodes a protein called "huntingtin," and that in such huntingtin gene the increase in the number of CAG repeats to a range of greater than about 37 repeats is the alteration that underlies the dominant phenotype of Huntington's disease. As used herein huntingtin gene is also called the Huntington's disease gene.

**[0040]** It is to be understood that the description below is applicable to any gene in which a CAG repeat within the gene is amplified in an aberrant manner resulting in a change in the regulation, localization, stability or translatability of the mRNA containing such amplified CAG repeat that is transcribed from such gene.

## I. Cloning Of Huntingtin DNA And Expression Of Huntingtin Protein

**[0041]** The identification of huntingtin DNA and protein as the altered gene in Huntington's disease patients is exemplified below. In addition to utilizing the exemplified methods and results for the identification of deletions of the huntingtin gene in Huntington's disease patients, and for the isolation of the native human huntingtin gene, the sequence information presented in Figure 4 represents a nucleic acid and protein sequence, that, when inserted into a linear or circular recombinant nucleic acid construct such as a vector, and used to transform a host cell, will provide copies of huntingtin DNA and huntingtin protein that are useful sources for the native huntingtin DNA and huntingtin protein for the methods of the invention. Such methods are known in the art and are briefly outlined below.

[0042] The process for genetically engineering the *huntingtin* coding sequence, for expression under a desired promoter, is facilitated through the cloning of genetic sequences which are capable of encoding such huntingtin protein. Such cloning technologies can utilize techniques known in the art for construction of a DNA sequence encoding the huntingtin protein, such as, for example, polymerase chain reaction technologies utilizing the *huntingtin* sequence disclosed herein to isolate the *huntingtin* gene anew, or an allele thereof that varies in the number of CAG repeats in such gene, or polynucleotide synthesis methods for constructing the nucleotide sequence using chemical methods. Expression of the cloned *huntingtin* DNA provides huntingtin protein.

[0043] As used herein, the term "genetic sequences" is intended to refer to a nucleic acid molecule of DNA or RNA, preferably DNA. Genetic sequences that are capable of being operably linked to DNA encoding huntingtin protein, so as to provide for its expression and maintenance in a host cell are obtained from a variety of sources, including commercial sources, genomic DNA, cDNA, synthetic DNA, and combinations thereof. Since the genetic code is universal, it is to be expected that any DNA encoding the huntingtin amino acid sequence of the invention will be useful to express huntingtin protein in any host, including prokaryotic (bacterial) hosts, eukaryotic hosts (plants, mammals (especially human), insects, yeast, and especially any cultured cell populations).

[0044] If it is desired to select anew a gene encoding huntingtin from a library that is thought to contain a huntingtin gene, such library can be screened and the desired gene sequence identified by any means which specifically selects for a sequence coding for the huntingtin gene or expressed huntingtin protein such as, for example, a) by hybridization (under stringent conditions for DNA:DNA hybridization) with an appropriate huntingtin DNA probe(s) containing a sequence specific for the DNA of this protein, such sequence being that provided in Figure 4 or a functional derivative thereof that is, a shortened form that is of sufficient length to identify a clone containing the huntingtin gene, or b) by hybridization-selected translational analysis in which native huntingtin mRNA which hybridizes to the clone in question is translated in vitro and the translation products are further characterized for the presence of a biological activity of huntingtin, or c) by immunoprecipitation of a translated huntingtin protein product from the host expressing the huntingtin protein.

[0045] When a human allele does not encode the identical sequence to that of Figure 4, it can be isolated and identified as being *huntingtin* DNA using the same techniques used herein, and especially PCR techniques to amplify the appropriate gene with primers based on the sequences disclosed herein. Many polymorphic probes useful in the fine localization of genes on chromosome 4 are known and available (see, for example, "ATCC/NIH Repository Catalogue of Human and Mouse DNA Probes and Libraries," fifth edition, 1991, pages 4-6. For example, a useful *D4S10* probe is clone designation pTV20 (ATCC 57605 and 57604); H5.52 (ATCC 61107 and 61106) and F5.53 (ATCC 61108). [0046] Human chromosome 4-specific libraries are known in the art and available from the ATCC for the isolation of probes ("ATCC/NIH Repository Catalogue of Human and Mouse DNA Probes and Libraries," fifth edition, 1991, pages 72-73), for example, LL04NS01 and LL04NS02 (ATCC 57719 and ATCC57718) are useful for these purposes.

**[0047]** It is not necessary to utilize the exact vector constructs exemplified in the invention; equivalent vectors can be constructed using techniques known in the art. For example, the sequence of the huntingtin DNA is provided herein, (see Figure 4) and this sequence provides the specificity for the *huntingtin* gene; it is only necessary that a desired probe contain this sequence, or a portion thereof sufficient to provide a positive indication of the presence of the *huntingtin* gene.

**[0048]** Huntingtin genomic DNA may or may not include naturally occurring introns. Moreover, such genomic DNA can be obtained in association with the native huntingtin 5' promoter region of the gene sequences and/or with the native huntingtin 3' transcriptional termination region.

**[0049]** Such *huntingtin* genomic DNA can also be obtained in association with the genetic sequences which encode the 5' non-translated region of the *huntingtin* mRNA and/or with the genetic sequences which encode the *huntingtin* 3' non-translated region. To the extent that a host cell can recognize the transcriptional and/or translational regulatory signals associated with the expression of *huntingtin* mRNA and protein, then the 5' and/or 3' non-transcribed regions of the native *huntingtin* gene, and/or, the 5' and/or 3' non-translated regions of the huntingtin mRNA can be retained and employed for transcriptional and translational regulation.

[0050] Genomic DNA can be extracted and purified from any host cell, especially a human host cell possessing chromosome 4, by means well known in the art. Genomic DNA can be shortened by means known in the art, such as physical shearing or restriction digestion, to isolate the desired *huntingtin* gene from a chromosomal region that otherwise would contain more information than necessary for the utilization of the *huntingtin* gene in the hosts of the invention. For example, restriction digestion can be utilized to cleave the full-length sequence at a desired location. Alternatively, or in addition, nucleases that cleave from the 3'-end of a DNA molecule can be used to digest a certain sequence to a shortened form, the desired length then being identified and purified by polymerase chain reaction technologies, gel electrophoresis, and DNA sequencing. Such nucleases include, for example, Exonuclease III and *Bal*31. Other nucleases are well known in the art.

[0051] Alternatively, if it is known that a certain host cell population expresses huntingtin protein, then cDNA techniques known in the art can be utilized to synthesize a cDNA copy of the huntingtin mRNA present in such population. [0052] For cloning the genomic or cDNA nucleic acid that encodes the amino acid sequence of the huntingtin protein into a vector, the DNA preparation can be ligated into an appropriate vector. The DNA sequence encoding huntingtin protein can be inserted into a DNA vector in accordance with conventional techniques, including blunt-ending or staggered-ending termini for ligation, restriction enzyme digestion to provide appropriate termini, filling in of cohesive ends as appropriate, alkaline phosphatase treatment to avoid undesirable joining, and ligation with appropriate ligases. Techniques for such manipulations are well known in the art.

**[0053]** When the huntingtin DNA coding sequence and an operably linked promoter are introduced into a recipient eukaryotic cell (preferably a human host cell) as a non-replicating, non-integrating, molecule, the expression of the encoded huntingtin protein can occur through the transient (nonstable) expression of the introduced sequence.

[0054] Preferably the coding sequence is introduced on a DNA molecule, such as a closed circular or linear molecule that is capable of autonomous replication. If integration into the host chromosome is desired, it is preferable to use a linear molecule. If stable maintenance of the *huntingtin* gene is desired on an extrachromosomal element, then it is preferable to use a circular plasmid form, with the appropriate plasmid element for autonomous replication in the desired host.

**[0055]** The desired gene construct, providing a gene coding for the huntingtin protein, and the necessary regulatory elements operably linked thereto, can be introduced into a desired host cells by transformation, transfection, or any method capable of providing the construct to the host cell. A marker gene for the detection of a host cell that has accepted the *huntingtin* DNA can be on the same vector as the *huntingtin* DNA or on a separate construct for cotransformation with the huntingtin coding sequence construct into the host cell. The nature of the vector will depend on the host organism.

[0056] Suitable selection markers will depend upon the host cell. For example, the marker can provide biocide resistance, e.g., resistance to antibiotics, or heavy metals, such as copper, or the like.

[0057] Factors of importance in selecting a particular plasmid or viral vector include: the ease with which recipient cells that contain the vector can be recognized and selected from those recipient cells which do not contain the vector;

the number of copies of the vector which are desired in a particular host; and whether it is desirable to be able to "shuttle" the vector between host cells of different species.

[0058] When it is desired to use *S. cerevisiae* as a host for a shuttle vector, preferred *S. cerevisiae* yeast plasmids include those containing the 2-micron circle, etc., or their derivatives. Such plasmids are well known in the art and are commercially available.

[0059] Oligonucleotide probes specific for the *huntingtin* sequence can be used to identify clones to huntingtin and can be designed *de novo* from the knowledge of the amino acid sequence of the protein as provided herein in Figure 4 or from the knowledge of the nucleic acid sequence of the DNA encoding such protein as provided herein in Figure 4 or of a related protein. Alternatively, antibodies can be raised against the huntingtin protein and used to identify the presence of unique protein determinants in transformants that express the desired cloned protein.

**[0060]** A nucleic acid molecule, such as DNA, is said to be "capable of expressing" a huntingtin protein if that nucleic acid contains expression control sequences which contain transcriptional regulatory information and such sequences are "operably linked" to the huntingtin nucleotide sequence which encode the huntingtin polypeptide.

[0061] An operable linkage is a linkage in which a sequence is connected to a regulatory sequence (or sequences) in such a way as to place expression of the sequence under the influence or control of the regulatory sequence. If the two DNA sequences are a coding sequence and a promoter region sequence linked to the 5' end of the coding sequence, they are operably linked if induction of promoter function results in the transcription of mRNA encoding the desired protein and if the nature of the linkage between the two DNA sequences does not (1) result in the introduction of a frame-shift mutation, (2) interfere with the ability of the expression regulatory sequences to direct the expression of the protein, antisense RNA, or (3) interfere with the ability of the DNA template to be transcribed. Thus, a promoter region would be operably linked to a DNA sequence if the promoter was capable of effecting transcription of that DNA sequence.

[0062] The precise nature of the regulatory regions needed for gene expression can vary between species or cell types, but shall in general include, as necessary, 5' non-transcribing and 5' non-translating (non-coding) sequences involved with initiation of transcription and translation respectively, such as the TATA box, capping sequence, CAAT sequence, and the like, with those elements necessary for the promoter sequence being provided by the promoters of the invention. Such transcriptional control sequences can also include enhancer sequences or upstream activator sequences, as desired.

**[0063]** The vectors of the invention can further comprise other operably linked regulatory elements such as DNA elements which confer antibiotic resistance, or origins of replication for maintenance of the vector in one or more host cells

[0064] In another embodiment, especially for maintenance of the vectors of the invention in prokaryotic cells, or in yeast *S. cerevisiae* cells, the introduced sequence is incorporated into a plasmid or viral vector capable of autonomous replication in the recipient host. Any of a wide variety of vectors can be employed for this purpose. In *Bacillus* hosts, integration of the desired DNA can be necessary.

[0065] Expression of a protein in eukaryotic hosts such as a human cell requires the use of regulatory regions functional in such hosts. A wide variety of transcriptional and translational regulatory sequences can be employed, depending upon the nature of the host. Preferably, these regulatory signals are associated in their native state with a particular gene which is capable of a high level of expression in the specific host cell, such as a specific human tissue type. In eukaryotes, where transcription is not linked to translation, such control regions may or may not provide an initiator methionine (AUG) codon, depending on whether the cloned sequence contains such a methionine. Such regions will, in general, include a promoter region sufficient to direct the initiation of RNA synthesis in the host cell.

[0066] If desired, the non-transcribed and/or non-translated regions 3' to the sequence coding for the huntingtin protein can be obtained by the above-described cloning methods. The 3'-non-transcribed region of the native human huntingtin gene can be retained for its transcriptional termination regulatory sequence elements, or for those elements which direct polyadenylation in eukaryotic cells. Where the native expression control sequences signals do not function satisfactorily in a host cell, then sequences functional in the host cell can be substituted.

[0067] It may be desired to construct a fusion product that contains a partial coding sequence (usually at the amino terminal end) of a first protein or small peptide and a second coding sequence (partial or complete) of the huntingtin protein at the carboxyl end. The coding sequence of the first protein can, for example, function as a signal sequence for secretion of the huntingtin protein from the host cell. Such first protein can also provide for tissue targeting or localization of the huntingtin protein if it is to be made in one cell type in a multicellular organism and delivered to another cell type in the same organism. Such fusion protein sequences can be designed with or without specific protease sites such that a desired peptide sequence is amenable to subsequent removal.

[0068] The expressed huntingtin protein can be isolated and purified from the medium of the host in accordance with conventional conditions, such as extraction, precipitation, chromatography, affinity chromatography, electrophoresis, or the like. For example, affinity purification with anti-huntingtin antibody can be used. A protein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 3 can be made, or a shortened peptide of this sequence can be made, and used to raised

antibodies using methods well known in the art. These antibodies can be used to affinity purify or quantitate huntingtin protein from any desired source.

**[0069]** If it is necessary to extract huntingtin protein from the intracellular regions of the host cells, the host cells can be collected by centrifugation, or with suitable buffers, lysed, and the protein isolated by column chromatography, for example, on DEAE-cellulose, phosphocellulose, polyribocytidylic acid-agarose, hydroxyapatite or by electrophoresis or immunoprecipitation.

### II. Use Of Huntingtin For Diagnostic And Treatment Purposes

[0070] It is to be understood that although the following discussion is specifically directed to human patients, the teachings are also applicable to any animal that expresses huntingtin and in which alteration of huntingtin, especially the amplification of CAG repeat copy number, leads to a defect in huntingtin gene (structure or function) or huntingtin protein (structure or function or expression), such that clinical manifectations such as those seen in Huntington's disease patients are found.

[0071] It is also to be understood that the methods referred to herein are applicable to any patient suspected of developing/having Huntington's disease, whether such condition is manifest at a young age or at a more advanced age in the patient's life. It is also to be understood that the term "patient" does not imply that symptoms are present, and patient includes any individual it is desired to examine or treat using the methods of the invention.

[0072] The diagnostic and screening methods of the invention are especially useful for a patient suspected of being at risk for developing Huntington's disease based on family history, or a patient in which it is desired to diagnose or eliminate the presence of the Huntington's disease condition as a causative agent behind a patient's symptoms.

[0073] It is to be understood that to the extent that a patient's symptoms arise due to the alteration of the CAG repeat copy numbers in the *huntingtin* gene, even without a diagnosis of Huntington's disease, the methods of the invention can identify the same as the underlying basis for such condition.

[0074] According to the invention, presymptomatic screening of an individual in need of such screening for their likelihood of developing Huntington's disease is now possible using DNA encoding the huntingtin gene of the invention, and specifically, DNA having the sequence of the normal human huntingtin gene. The screening method of the invention allows a presymptomatic diagnosis, including prenatal diagnosis, of the presence of an aberrant huntingtin gene in such individuals, and thus an opinion concerning the likelihood that such individual would develop or has developed Huntington's disease or symptoms thereof. This is especially valuable for the identification of carriers of altered huntingtin gene alleles where such alleles possess an increased number of CAG repeats in their huntingtin gene, for example, from individuals with a family history of Huntington's disease. Especially useful for the determination of the number of CAG repeats in the patient's huntingtin gene is the use of PCR to amplify such region or DNA blotting techniques.

[0075] For example, in the method of screening, a tissue sample would be taken from such individual, and screened for (1) the presence of the 'normal' human huntingtin gene, especially for the presence of a "normal" range of 11-34 CAG copies in such gene. The human huntingtin gene can be characterized based upon, for example, detection of restriction digestion patterns in 'normal' versus the patient's DNA, including RFLP analysis, using DNA probes prepared against the huntingtin sequence (or a functional fragment thereof) taught in the invention. Similarly, huntingtin mRNA can be characterized and compared to normal huntingtin mRNA (a) levels and/or (b) size as found in a human population not at risk of developing Huntington's disease using similar probes. Lastly, huntingtin protein can be (a) detected and/or (b) quantitated using a biological assay for huntingtin, for example, using an immunological assay and anti-huntingtin antibodies. When assaying huntingtin protein, the immunological assay is preferred for its speed. Methods of making antibody against the huntingtin are well known in the art.

[0076] An (1) aberrant huntingtin DNA size pattern, such as an aberrant huntingtin RFLP, and/or (2) aberrant huntingtin mRNA sizes or levels and/or (3) aberrant huntingtin protein levels would indicate that the patient has developed or is at risk for developing a huntingtin-associated symptom such as a symptom associated with Huntington's disease. [0077] The screening and diagnostic methods of the invention do not require that the entire huntingtin DNA coding sequence be used for the probe. Rather, it is only necessary to use a fragment or length of nucleic acid that is sufficient to detect the presence of the huntingtin gene in a DNA preparation from a normal or affected individual, the absence of such gene, or an altered physical property of such gene (such as a change in electrophoretic migration pattern).

**[0078]** Prenatal diagnosis can be performed when desired, using any known method to obtain fetal cells, including amniocentesis, chorionic villous sampling (CVS), and fetoscopy. Prenatal chromosome analysis can be used to determine if the portion of chromosome 4 possessing the normal *huntingtin* gene is present in a heterozygous state, and PCR amplification or DNA blotting utilized for estimating the size of the CAG repeat in the *huntingtin* gene.

**[0079]** The huntingtin DNA can be synthesized, especially, the CAG repeat region can be amplified and, if desired, labeled with a radioactive or nonradioactive reporter group, using techniques known in the art (for example, see Eckstein, F., Ed., Oligonucleotides and Analogues: A Practical Approach, IRS Press at Oxford University Press, New York,

1992); and Kricka, L.J., Ed., Nonisotopic DNA Probe Techniques, Academic Press, San Diego, (1992)).

[0080] Functional huntingtin DNA may be used in the manufacture of a medicament for treating Huntington's disease in a patient in need of such treatment, the medicament being for administration to the cells of such patient, preferably prior to such symptomatic state that indicates the death of many of the patient's neuronal cells which it is desired to target with the method of the invention. The replacement huntingtin DNA is provided in a manner and amount that permits the expression of the huntingtin protein provided by such gene, for a time and in a quantity sufficient to treat such patient. Many vector systems are known in the art to provide such delivery to human patients in need of a gene or protein missing from the cell. For example, adenovirus or retrovirus systems can be used, especially modified retrovirus systems and especially herpes simplex virus systems. Such methods are provided for, in, for example, the teachings of Breakefield, X.A. et al., The New Biologist 3:203-218 (1991); Huang, Q. et al., Experimental Neurology 115:303-316 (1992), WO93/03743 and WO90/09441. Methods of antisense strategies are known in the art (see, for example, Antisense Strategies, Baserga, R. et al., Eds., Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, volume 660, 1992).

[0081] A gene encoding an expressible sequence that transcribes *huntingtin* antisense RNA may be used in the manufacture of a medicament for treating Huntington's disease in a patient in need of such treatment, the medicament being for administration to the cells of such patient, preferably prior to such symptomatic state that indicates the death of many of the patient's neuronal cells which it is desired to target with the method of the invention. The replacement *huntingtin* antisense RNA gene is provided in a manner and amount that permits the expression of the antisense RNA provided by such gene, for a time and in a quantity sufficient to treat such patient, and especially in an amount to inhibit translation of the aberrant huntingtin mRNA that is being expressed in the cells of such patient. As above, many vector systems are known in the art to provide such delivery to human patients in need of a gene or protein which is altered in the patients' cells. For example, adenovirus or retrovirus systems can be used, especially modified retrovirus systems and especially herpes simplex virus systems. Such methods are provided for, in, for example, the teachings of Breakefield, X.A. *et al.*, *The New Biologist* 3:203-218 (1991); Huang, Q. *et al.*, *Experimental Neurology* 115:303-316 (1992), WO93/03743 and WO90/09441.

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**[0082]** Delivery of a DNA sequence encoding a functional huntingtin protein, such as the amino acid encoding sequence of Figure 4, will effectively replace the:altered *huntingtin* gene of the invention, and inhibit, and/or stop and/or regress the symptoms that are the result of the interference to *huntingtin* gene expression due to an increased number of CAG repeats, such as 37 to 86 repeats in the *huntingtin* gene as compared to the 11-34 CAG repeats found in human populations not at risk for developing Huntington's disease.

**[0083]** Because Huntington's disease is characterized by a loss of neurons that is most severe in the caudate and putamen regions of the brain, the method of treatment of the invention is most effective when the replacement *huntingtin* gene is provided to the patient early in the course of the disease, prior to the loss of many neurons due to cell death. For that reason, presymptomatic screening methods according to the invention are important in identifying those individuals in need of treatment by the method of the invention, and such treatment preferably is provided while such individual is presymptomatic.

**[0084]** An antagonist to the aberrant huntingtin protein may be used in the manufacture of a medicament for treating Huntington's disease in a patient in need of such treatment, the medicament being for administration in the cells of such patient.

[0085] Although the use is specifically described for DNA-DNA probes, it is to be understood that RNA possessing the same sequence information as the DNA of the invention can be used when desired.

[0086] For diagnostic assays, huntingtin antibodies are useful for quantitating and evaluating levels of huntingtin protein, and are especially useful in immunoassays and diagnostic kits.

[0087] In another embodiment, the present invention relates to an antibody having binding affinity to an huntingtin polypeptide, or a binding fragment thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the polypeptide has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6, or mutant or species variation thereof, or at least 7 contiguous amino acids thereof (preferably, at least 10, 15, 20, or 30 contiguous amino acids thereof). Those which bind selectively to huntingtin would be chosen for use in methods which could include, but should not be limited to, the analysis of altered huntingtin expression in tissue containing huntingtin.

**[0088]** The antibodies of the present invention include monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies, as well fragments of these antibodies. Antibody fragments which contain the idiotype of the molecule can be generated by known techniques. For example, such fragments include but are not limited to: the F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment; the Fab' fragments, and the Fab fragments.

**[0089]** Of special interest to the present invention are antibodies to huntingtin (or their functional derivatives) which are produced in humans, or are "humanized" (i.e. non-immunogenic in a human) by recombinant or other technology. Humanized antibodies may be produced, for example by replacing an immunogenic portion of an antibody with a corresponding, but non-immunogenic portion (i.e. chimeric antibodies) (Robinson, R.R. *et al.*, International Patent Publication PCT/US86/02269; Akira, K. *et al.*, European Patent Application 184,187; Taniguchi, M., European Patent Application 1

plication 171,496; Morrison, S.L. et al., European Patent Application 173,494; Neuberger, M.S. et al., PCT Application WO 86/01533; Cabilly, S. et al., European Patent Application 125,023; Better, M. et al., Science 240:1041-1043 (1988); Liu, A.Y. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84:3439-3443 (1987); Liu, A.Y. et al., J. Immunol. 139:3521-3526 (1987); Sun, L.K. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84:214-218 (1987); Nishimura, Y. et al., Canc. Res. 47:999-1005 (1987); Wood, C.R. et al., Nature 314:446-449 (1985)); Shaw et al., J. Natl. Cancer Inst. 80:1553-1559 (1988). General reviews of "humanized" chimeric antibodies are provided by Morrison, S.L. (Science, 229:1202-1207 (1985)) and by Oi, V.T. et al., BioTechniques 4:214 (1986)). Suitable "humanized" antibodies can be alternatively produced by CDR or CEA substitution (Jones, P.T. et al., Nature 321:552-525 (1986); Verhoeyan et al., Science 239:1534 (1988); Beidler, C.B. et al., J. Immunol. 141:4053-4060 (1988)).

[0090] In another embodiment, the present invention relates to a hybridoma which produces the above-described monoclonal antibody, or binding fragment thereof. A hybridoma is an immortalized cell line which is capable of secreting a specific monoclonal antibody.

[0091] In general, techniques for preparing monoclonal antibodies and hybridomas are well known in the art (Campbell, "Monoclonal Antibody Technology: Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology," Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (1984); St. Groth et al., J. Immunol. Methods 35:1-21 (1980)).

[0092] Any animal (mouse, rabbit, and the like) which is known to produce antibodies can be immunized with the selected polypeptide. Methods for immunization are well known in the art. Such methods include subcutaneous or interperitoneal injection of the polypeptide. One skilled in the art will recognize that the amount of polypeptide used for immunization will vary based on the animal which is immunized, the antigenicity of the polypeptide and the site of injection.

[0093] The polypeptide may be modified or administered in an adjuvant in order to increase the peptide antigenicity. Methods of increasing the antigenicity of a polypeptide are well known in the art. Such procedures include coupling the antigen with a heterologous protein (such as globulin or  $\beta$ -galactosidase) or through the inclusion of an adjuvant during immunization.

[0094] For monoclonal antibodies, spleen cells from the immunized animals are removed, fused with myeloma cells, and allowed to become monoclonal antibody producing hybridoma cells.

[0095] Any one of a number of methods well known in the art can be used to identify the hybridoma cell which produces an antibody with the desired characteristics. These include screening the hybridomas with an ELISA assay, western blot analysis, or radioimmunoassay (Lutz et al., Exp. Cell Res. 175:109-124 (1988)).

[0096] Hybridomas secreting the desired antibodies are cloned and the class and subclass is determined using procedures known in the art (Campbell, Monoclonal Antibody Technology: Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, supra (1984)).

**[0097]** For polyclonal antibodies, antibody containing antisera is isolated from the immunized animal and is screened for the presence of antibodies with the desired specificity using one of the above-described procedures.

[0098] In another embodiment of the present invention, the above-described antibodies are detectably labeled. Antibodies can be detectably labeled through the use of radioisotopes, affinity labels (such as biotin, avidin, and the like), enzymatic labels (such as horse radish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, and the like) fluorescent labels (such as FITC or rhodamine, and the like), paramagnetic atoms, and the like. Procedures for accomplishing such labeling are well-known in the art, for example, see (Sternberger et al., J. Histochem. Cytochem. 18:315 (1970); Bayer et al., Meth. Enzym. 62:308 (1979); Engval et al., Immunol. 109:129 (1972); Goding, J. Immunol. Meth. 13:215 (1976)). The labeled antibodies of the present invention can be used for in vitro, in vivo, and in situ assays to identify cells or tissues which express a specific peptide.

**[0099]** The above-described antibodies may be immobilized on a solid support. Examples of such solid supports include plastics such as polycarbonate, complex carbohydrates such as agarose and sepharose, acrylic resins and such as polyacrylamide and latex beads. Techniques for coupling antibodies to such solid supports are well known in the art (Weir et al., "Handbook of Experimental Immunology" 4th Ed., Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, England, Chapter 10 (1986); Jacoby et al., Meth. Enzym. 34 Academic Press, N.Y. (1974)). The immobilized antibodies of the present invention can be used for *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and *in situ* assays as well as in immunochromotography.

**[0100]** Furthermore, one skilled in the art can readily adapt currently available procedures, as well as the techniques, methods and kits disclosed above with regard to antibodies, to generate peptides capable of binding to a specific peptide sequence in order to generate rationally designed antipeptide peptides, for example see Hurby *et al.*, "Application of Synthetic Peptides: Antisense Peptides", In *Synthetic Peptides*, *A User's Guide*, W.H. Freeman, NY, pp. 289-307 (1992), and Kaspczak *et al.*, *Biochemistry 28*:9230-8 (1989).

[0101] Anti-peptide peptides can be generated in one of two fashions. First, the anti-peptide peptides can be generated by replacing the basic amino acid residues found in the huntingtin peptide sequence with acidic residues, while maintaining hydrophobic and uncharged polar groups. For example, lysine, arginine, and/or histidine residues are replaced with aspartic acid or glutamic acid and glutamic acid residues are replaced by lysine, arginine or histidine.

[0102] The manner and method of carrying out the present invention can be more fully understood by those of skill

by reference to the following examples.

#### Examples

[0103] The gene causing Huntington's disease has been mapped in 4p16.3 but has previously eluded identification. The invention uses haplotype analysis of linkage disequilibrium to spotlight a small segment of 4p16.3 as the likely location of the defect. A new gene, huntingtin (IT15), isolated using cloned "trapped" exons from a cosmid contig of the target area contains a polymorphic trinucleotide repeat that is expanded and unstable on HD chromosomes. A (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat longer than the normal range of about 11 to about 34 copies was observed on HD chromosomes from all 75 disease families examined, comprising a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and 4p16.3 haplotypes. The (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat, which varies from 37 to at least 86 copies on HD chromosomes appears to be located within the coding sequence of a predicted about 348 kDa protein that is widely expressed but unrelated to any known gene. Thus, the Huntington's disease mutation involves an unstable DNA segment, similar to those described in fragile X syndrome and myotonic dystrophy, acting in the context of a novel 4p16.3 gene to produce a dominant phenotype.

[0104] The following protocols and experimental details are referenced in the examples that follow.

[0105] HD Cell Lines. Lymphoblast cell lines from HD families of varied ethnic backgrounds used for genetic linkage and disequilibrium studies (Conneally et al., Genomics 5:304-308 (1989); MacDonald et al., Nature Genet. 1:99-103 (1992)) have been established (Anderson and Gusella, In Vitro 20:856-858 (1984)) in the Molecular Neurogenetics Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital, over the past 13 years. The Venezuelan HD pedigree is an extended kindred of over 10,000 members in which all affected individuals have inherited the HD gene from a common founder (Gusella et al., Nature 306:234-238 (1983); Gusella et al., Science 225:1320-1326 (1984); Wexler et al., Nature 326:194-197 (1987)).

[0106] DNA/RNA Blotting. DNA was prepared from cultured cells and DNA blots prepared and hybridized as described (Gusella et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76:5239-5243 (1979); Gusella et al., Nature 306:234-238 (1983)). RNA was prepared and Northern blotting performed as described in Taylor et al., Nature Genet. 3:223-227 (1992).

[0107] Construction of Cosmid Contig. The initial construction of the cosmid contig was by chromosome walking from cosmids L19 and BJ56 (Allitto et al., Genomics 9:104-112 (1991); Lin et al., Somat. Cell Mol. Genet. 17:481-488 (1991)). Two libraries were employed, a collection of Alu-positive cosmids from the reduced cell hybrid H39-8C10 (Whaley et al., Som. Cell Mol. Genet. 17:83-91 (1991)) and an arrayed flow-sorted chromosome 4 cosmid library (NM87545) provided by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Walking was accomplished by hybridization of whole cosmid DNA, using suppression of repetitive and vector sequences, to robot-generated high density filter grids (Nizetic, D. et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88:3233-3237 (1991); Lehrach, H. et al., in Genome Analysis: Genetic and Physical Mapping, Volume 1, Davies, K.E. et al., Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1991, pp. 39-81). Cosmids L1C2, L69F7, L228B6 and L83D3 were first identified by hybridization of YAC clone YGA2 to the same arrayed library (Bates et al., Nature Genet. 1:180-187 (1992); Baxendale et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 19:6651 (1991)). HD cosmid GUS72-2130 was isolated by standard screening of a GUS72 cosmid library using a single-copy probe. Cosmid overlaps were confirmed by a combination of clone-to-clone and clone-to-genomic hybridizations, single-copy probe hybridizations and restriction mapping.

[0108] cDNA Isolation and Characterization. Exon probes were isolated and cloned as described (Buckler et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88:4005-4009 (1991)). Exon probes and cDNAs were used to screen human 1ambdaZAPII cDNA libraries constructed from adult frontal cortex, fetal brain, adenovirus transformed retinal cell line RCA, and liver RNA. cDNA clones, PCR products and trapped exons were sequenced as described (Sanger et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 74:5463-5467 (1977)). Direct cosmid sequencing was performed as described (McClatchey et al., Hum. Mol. Genet. 1:521-527 (1992)). Database searches were performed using the BLAST network service of National Center for Biotechnology Information (Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410 (1990)).

**[0109]** PCR Assay of the  $(CAG)_n$  Repeat. Genomic primers (SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4) flanking the  $(CAG)_n$  repeat are:

## 5' ATG AAG GCC TTC GAG TCC CTC AAG TCC TTC 3'

and

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### 5' AAA CTC ACG GTC GGT GCA GCG GCT CCT CAG 3'.

PCR amplification was performed in a reaction volume of 25 µl using 50 ng of genomic DNA, 5 µg of each primer, 10

mM Tris, pH 8.3, 5mM KCl, 2mM  ${\rm MgCl_2}$ , 200  ${\rm \mu M}$  dNTPs, 10% DMSO, 0.1 unit Perfectmatch (Stratagene), 2.5  ${\rm \mu Ci}$  <sup>32</sup>P-dCTP (Amersham) and 1.25 units Taq polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim). After heating to 94°C for 1.5 minutes, the reaction mix was cycled according to the following program: 40 X [1'@94°C;1'@60°C;2'@72°C]. 5  ${\rm \mu I}$  of each PCR reaction was diluted with an equal volume of 95 % formamide loading dye and heat denatured for 2 min. at 95°C. The products were resolved on 5% denaturing polyacrylamide gels. The PCR product from this reaction using cosmid L191F1 (CAG<sub>18</sub>) as template was 247 bp. Allele sizes were estimated relative to a DNA sequencing ladder, the PCR products from sequenced cosmids, and the invariant background bands often present on the gel. Estimates of allelic variation were obtained by typing unrelated individuals of largely Western European ancestry, and normal parents of affected HD individuals from various pedigrees.

[0110] Typing of HD and normal chromosomes in Examples 5-8. HD chromosomes were derived from symptomatic individuals and "at risk" individuals known to be gene carriers by linkage marker analysis. All HD chromosomes were from members of well-characterized HD families of varied ethnic backgrounds used previously for genetic linkage and disequilibrium studies (MacDonald, M.E., et al., Nature Genet. 1:99-103 (1992); Conneally, P.M., et al., Genomics 5: 304-308 (1989)). Three of the 150 families used were large pedigrees, each descended from a single founder. The large Venezuelan HD pedigree is an extended kindred of over 13,000 members from which we typed 75 HD chromosomes (Gusella, J.F., et al., Nature 306:234-238 (1983); Wexler, N.S., et al., Nature 326:194-197 (1987)). Two other large families that have been described previously as Family Z and Family D, provided 25 and 35 HD chromosomes, respectively (Folstein, S.E., et al., Science 229:776-779 (1985)). Normal chromosomes were taken from married-ins in the HD families and from unrelated normal individuals from non-HD families. The DNA tested for all individuals except four was prepared from lymphoblastoid cell lines or fresh blood (Gusella, J.F., et al., Nature 306:234-238 (1983); Anderson and Gusella. In Vitro 20:856-858 (1984)). In the exceptional cases, DNA was prepared from frozen cerebellum. No difference in the characteristics of the PCR products were observed between lymphoblastoid, fresh blood, or brain DNAs. For five members of the Venezuelan pedigree aged 24-30, we also prepared DNA by extracting pelleted sperm from semen samples. The length of the HD gene (CAG), repeat for all DNAs was assessed using polymerase chain reaction amplification.

[0111] Statistical analysis as set forth in Examples 5-8. Associations between repeat lengths and onset age were assessed by Pearson correlation coefficient and by multivariate regression to assess higher order associations. Comparisons of the distributions of repeat length for all HD chromosomes and those for individual families were made by analysis of variance and t-test contrasts between groups. The 95 % confidence bands were computed around the regression line utilizing the general linear models procedure of SAS (SAS Institute Inc., SAS/STAT User's Guide, Version 6, Fourth Edition, Volume 2 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, N.C., pp. 846, 1989)).

### Example 1

Application of Exon Amplification to Obtain Trapped Cloned Exons

[0112] The HD candidate region defined by discrete recombination events in well-characterized families spans 2.2 Mb between D4S10 and D4S98 as shown in Figure 1. The 500 kb segment between D4S180 and D4S182 displays the strongest linkage disequilibrium with HD, with about 1/3 of disease chromosomes sharing a common haplotype, anchored by multi-allele polymorphisms at D4S127 and D4S95 (MacDonald et al., Nature Genet. 1:99-103 (1992)). Sixty-four overlapping cosmids spanning about 480 kb from D4S180 to a location between D4S95 and D4S182 have been isolated by a combination of information from YAC (Baxendale et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 19:6651 (1991)) and cosmid probe hybridization to high density filter grids of a chromosome 4 specific library, as well as additional libraries covering this region. Sixteen of these cosmids providing the complete contig are shown in Figure 1. We have previously used exon amplification to identify ADDA, the  $\alpha$ -adducin locus, IT10C3, a novel putative transporter gene, and IT11, a novel G protein-coupled receptor kinase gene in the region distal to D4S127 (Figure 1).

**[0113]** We have now applied the exon amplification technique to cosmids from the region of the contig proximal to *D4S127*. This procedure produces "trapped" exon clones, which can represent single exons, or multiple exons spliced together and is an efficient method of obtaining probes for screening cDNA libraries. Individual cosmids were processed, yielding 9 exon clones in the region from cosmids L134B9 to L181B10.

[0114] Two non-overlapping cDNAs were initially isolated using exon probes. IT15A was obtained by screening a transformed adult retinal cell cDNA library with exon clone DL118F5-U. IT16A was isolated by screening an adult frontal cortex cDNA library with a pool of three exon clones, DL83D3-8, DL83D3-1, and DL228B6-3. By Northern blot analysis, we discovered that IT15A and IT16A are in fact different portions of the same large approximately 10-11 kb transcript. Figure 2 shows an example of a Northern blot containing RNA from lymphoblastoid cell lines representing a normal individual and 2 independent homozygotes for *HD* chromosomes of different haplotypes. The same approximately 10-11 kb transcript was also detected in RNA from a variety of human tissues (liver, spleen, kidney, muscle and various regions of adult brain).

[0115] IT15A and IT16A were used to "walk" in a number of human tissue cDNA libraries in order to obtain the full-length transcript. Figure 3 shows a representation of 5 cDNA clones which define the IT15 transcript, under a schematic of the composite sequence derived as described in the legend. Figure 3 also displays the locations on the composite sequence of the 9 trapped exon clones.

[0116] The composite sequence of IT15, containing the entire predicted coding sequence, spans 10,366 bases including a tail of 18 A's as shown in Figure 4. An open reading frame of 9,432 bases begins with a potential initiator methionine codon at base 316, located in the context of an optimal translation initiation sequence. An in-frame stop codon is located 240 bases upstream from this site. The protein product of IT15 is predicted to be a 348 kDa protein containing 3,144 amino acids. Although the first Met codon in the long open reading frame has been chosen as the probably initiator codon, we cannot exclude that translation does not actually begin at a more 3' Met codon, producing a smaller protein.

### Example 2

Polymorphic Variation of the (CAG), Trinucleotide Repeat

[0117] Near its 5' end, the IT15 sequence contains 21 copies of the triplet CAG, encoding glutamine (Figure 5). When this sequence was compared with genomic sequences that are known to surround simple sequence repeats (SSRs) in 4p16.3, it was found that normal cosmid L191F1 had 18 copies of the triplet indicating that the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat is polymorphic (Figure 5). Primers from the genomic sequence flanking the repeat were chosen to establish a PCR assay for this variation. In the normal population, this SSR polymorphism displays at least 17 discrete alleles (Table 1) ranging from about 11 to about 34 repeat units. Ninety-eight percent of the 173 normal chromosomes tested contained repeat lengths between 11 and 24 repeats. Two chromosomes were detected in the 25-30 repeat range and 2 normal chromosomes had 33 and 34 repeats respectively. The overall heterozygosity on normal chromosome was 80%. Based on sequence analysis of three clones, it appears that the variation is based entirely on the (CAG)<sub>n</sub>, but the potential for variation of the smaller downstream (CCG)<sub>7</sub> which is also included in the PCR product, is also present.

#### Example 3

30 Instability of the Trinucleotide Repeat on HD chromosomes

[0118] Sequence analysis of cosmid GUS72-2130, derived from a chromosome with the major HD haplotype (see below), revealed 48 copies of the trinucleotide repeat, far greater than the largest normal allele (Figure 5). When the PCR assay was applied to HD chromosomes, a pattern strikingly different from the normal variation was observed. HD heterozygotes contained one discrete allelic product in the normal size range, and one PCR product of much larger size, suggesting that the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat on HD chromosomes is expanded relative to normal chromosomes. [0119] Figure 6 shows the patterns observed when the PCR assay was performed on lymphoblast DNA from a selected nuclear family in a large Venezuelan HD kindred. In this family, DNA marker analysis has shown previously that the HD chromosome was transmitted from the father (lane 2) to seven children (lanes 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11). The three normal chromosomes present in this mating yielded a PCR product in the normal size range (AN1, AN2, AN3) that was inherited in a Mendelian fashion. The HD chromosome in the father yielded a diffuse, "fuzzy"-appearing PCR product slightly smaller than the 48 repeat product of the non-Venezuelan HD cosmid. Except for the DNA in lane 5 which did not PCR amplify and in lane 11 which displayed only a single normal allele, each of the affected children's DNAs yielded a fuzzy PCR product of a different size (AE), indicating instability of the HD chromosome (CAG), repeat. Lane 6 contained an HD-specific product slightly smaller than or equal to that of the father's DNA. Lanes 3, 7, 10 and 8, respectively, contained HD-specific PCR products of progressively larger size. The absence of an HD-specific PCR product in lane 11 suggested that this child's DNA possessed a (CAG), repeat that was too long to amplify efficiently. This was verified by Southern blot analysis in which the expanded HD allele was easily detected and estimated to contain up to 100 copies of the repeat. Notably, this child had juvenile onset of HD at the very early age of 2 years. The onset of HD in the father was in his early 40s, typical of most adult HD patients in this population. The onset ages of children represented by lanes 3, 7, 10 and 8 were 26, 25, 14 and 11 years, respectively, suggesting a rough correlation between age at onset of HD and the length of the (CAG), repeat on the HD chromosome. In keeping with this trend, the offspring represented in lane 6 with the fewest repeats remained asymptomatic when last examined at age of 30. [0120] Figure 7 shows PCR analysis for a second sibship from the Venezuelan pedigree in which both parents are HD heterozygotes carrying the same HD chromosome based on DNA marker studies. Several of the offspring are HD homozygotes (lanes 6+7, 10+11, 13+14, 17+18, 23+24) as reported previously (Wexler et al., Nature 326:194-197 (1987)). Each parent's DNA contained one allele in the normal range (AN1, AN2) which was transmitted in a Mendelian fashion. The HD-specific products (AE) from the DNA of both parents and children were all much larger than the normal

allelic products and also showed extensive variation in mean size. A neurologic diagnosis for the offspring in this pedigree was not provided to maintain the blind status of investigators involved in the ongoing Venezuela HD project, although age of onset again appears to parallel repeat length. Paired samples under many of the individual symbols represent independent lymphoblast lines initiated at least one year apart. The variance between paired samples was not as great as between the different individuals, suggesting that the major differences in size of the PCR products resulted from meiotic transmission. Of special note is the result obtained in lanes 13 and 14. This *HD* homozygote's DNA yielded one PCR product larger and one smaller than the *HD*-specific PCR products of both parents.

**[0121]** To date, we have tested 75 independent HD families, representing all different reported in MacDonald *et al.*, *Nature Genet. 1*:99-103 (1992)) and a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. In all 75 cases, a PCR product larger than the normal size range was produced from the *HD* chromosome. The sizes of the *HD*-specific products ranged from 42 repeat copies to more than 66 copies, with a few individuals failing to yield a product because of the extreme length of the repeat. In these cases, Southern blot analysis revealed an increase in the length of an EcoRI fragment with the largest allele approximating 100 copies of the repeat. Figure 8 shows the variation detected in members of an American family of Irish ancestry in which the major *HD* haplotype is segregating. Cosmid GUS72-2130 was cloned from the *HD* homozygous individual whose DNA was amplified in lane 2. As was observed in the Venezuelan HD pedigree (Figures 6 and 7), which segregates the disorder with a different 4p16.3 haplotype, the *HD*-specific PCR products for this family display considerable size variation.

### Example 4

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New Mutations to HD

[0122] The mutation rate in HD has been reported to be very low. To test whether the expansion of the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat is the mechanism by which new *HD* mutations occur, two pedigrees with sporadic cases of HD have been examined in which intensive searching failed to reveal a family history of the disorder. In these cases, pedigree information sufficient to identify the same chromosomes in both the affected individual and unaffective relatives was gathered. Figures 9 and 10 show the results of PCR analysis of the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat in these families. The chromosomes in each family were assigned an arbitrary number based on typing for a large number of RFLP and SSR markers in 4p16.3 defining distinct haplotypes and the presumed *HD* chromosome is starred.

[0123] In family #1, HD first appeared in individual II-3 who transmitted the disorder to III-1 along with chromosome 3\*. This same chromosome was present in II-2, an elderly unaffected individual. PCR analysis revealed that chromosome 3\* from II-2 produced a PCR product at the extreme high end of the normal range (about 36 CAG copies). However, the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat on the same chromosome in II-3 and III-1 had undergone sequential expansions to about 44 and about 46 copies, respectively. A similar result was obtained in Family #2, where the presumed HD mutant III-2 had a considerably expanded repeat relative to the same chromosome in II-1 and III-1 (about 49 vs. about 33 CAG copies). In both family #1 and family #2, the ultimate HD chromosome displays the marker haplotype characteristic of 1/3 of all HD chromosomes, suggesting that this haplotype may be predisposed to undergoing repeat expansion.

### Discussion

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[0124] The discovery of an expanded, unstable trinucleotide repeat on HD chromosomes within the IT15 gene is the basis for utilizing this gene as the HD gene of the invention. These results are consistent with the interpretation that HD constitutes the latest example of a mutational mechanism that may prove quite common in human genetic disease. Elongation of a trinucleotide repeat sequence has been implicated previously as the cause of three quite different human disorders, the fragile X syndrome, myotonic dystrophy and spino-bulbar muscular atrophy. The initial observations of repeat expansion in HD indicate that this phenomenon shares features in common with each of these disorders. [0125] In the fragile X syndrome, expression of a constellation of symptoms that includes mental retardation and a fragile site at Xq27.3 is associated with expansion of a (CGG)<sub>n</sub> repeat thought to be in the 5' untranslated region of the FMR1 gene (Fu et al., Cell 67:1047-1058 (1991); Kremer et al., Science 252:1711-1714 (1991); Verkerk et al., Cell 65:904-914 (1991)). In myotonic dystrophy, a dominant disorder involving muscle weakness with myotonia that typically present in early adulthood, the unstable trinucleotide repeat, (CTG), is located in the 3' untranslated region of the mysotonin protein kinase gene (Aslanidis et al., Nature 355:548-551 (1992); Brook et al., Cell 68:799-808 (1992); Buxton et al., Nature 355:547-548 (1992); Fu et al., Science 255:1256-1259 (1992); Harley et al., Lancet 339:1125-1128 (1992); Mahadevan et al., Science 255:1253-1255 (1992)). The unstable (CAG), repeat in HD may be within the coding sequence of the IT15 gene, a feature shared with spino-bulbar muscular atrophy, an X-linked recessive adult-onset disorder of the motor neurons caused by expansion of a  $(CAG)_n$  repeat in the coding sequence of the androgen receptor gene (LaSpada et al., Nature 352:77-79 (1991)). The repeat length in both the fragile X syndrome and myotonic dystrophy tends to increase in successive generations, sometimes quite dramatically. Occasionally, decreases in the av-

erage repeat length are observed (Fu et al., Science 255:1256-1259 (1992); Yu et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. 50:968-980 (1992); Bruner et al., N. Engl. J. Med.:476-480 (1993)). The HD trinucleotide repeat is also unstable, usually expanding when transmitted to the next generation, but contracting on occasion. In HD, as in the other disorders, change in copy number occurs in the absence of recombination. Compared with the fragile X syndrome, myotonic dystrophy, and HD, the instability of the disease allele in spino-bulbar muscular atrophy is more limited, and dramatic expansions of repeat length have not been seen (Biancalana et al., Hum. Mol. Genet. 1:255-258 (1992)).

**[0126]** Expansion of the repeat length in myotonic dystrophy is associated with a particular chromosomal haplotype, suggesting the existence of a primordial predisposing mutation (Harley *et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 49:68-75 (1991); Harley *et al., Nature* 355:545-546 (1992); Ashizawa, *Lancet* 338:642-643 (1991); and Epstein (1991)). In the fragile X syndrome, there may be a limited number of ancestral mutations that predispose to increases in trinucleotide repeat number (Richards *et al., Nature Genet.* 1:257-260 (1992); Oudet *et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 52:297-304 (1993)). The linkage disequilibrium analysis used to identify IT15 indicates that there are several haplotypes associated with HD, but that at least 1/3 of *HD* chromosomes are ancestrally related (MacDonald *et al., Nature Genet.* 1:99-103 (1992)). These data, combined with the reported low rate of new mutation to *HD* (Harper, *J. Med. Genet.* 89:365-376 (1992)), suggest that expansion of the trinucleotide repeat may only occur on select chromosomes. The analysis of two families presented herein, in which new mutation was supposed to have occurred, is consistent with the view that there may be particular normal chromosomes that have the capacity to undergo expansion of the repeat into the *HD* range. In each of these families, a chromosome with a (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat length in the upper end of the normal range was segregating on a chromosome whose 4p16.3 haplotype matched the most common haplotype seen on *HD* chromosomes and the clinical appearance of HD in these two cases was associated with expansion of the trinucleotide repeat.

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[0127] The recent application of haplotype analysis to explore the linkage disequilibrium on *HD* chromosomes pointed to a portion of a 2.2 Mb candidate region defined by the majority of recombination events described in HD pedigrees (MacDonald *et al.*, *Nature Genet 1*:99-103 (1992)). Previously, the search for the gene was confounded by three matings in which the genetic inheritance pattern was inconsistent with the remainder of the family (MacDonald *et al.*, *Neuron 3*:183-190 (1989b); Prichard *et al.*, *Am. J. Hum. Genet. 50*:1218-1230 (1992)). These matings produced apparently affected HD individuals despite the inheritance of only normal alleles for markers throughout 4p16.3, effectively excluding inheritance of the *HD* chromosome present in the rest of the pedigree. Using PCR assay disclosed above, each of these families was tested and it was determined that like other HD kindreds, an expanded allele segregates with *HD* in affected individuals of all three pedigrees. However, an expanded allele was not present in those specific individuals with the inconsistent 4p16.3 genotypes. Instead, these individuals displayed the normal alleles expected based on analysis of other markers in 4p16.3. It is conceivable that these inconsistent individuals do not, in fact, have HD, but some other disorder. Alternatively, they might represent genetic mosaics in which the *HD* allele is more heavily represented and/or more expanded in brain tissue than in the lymphoblast DNA used for genotyping.

[0128] The capacity to monitor directly the size of the trinucleotide repeat in individuals "at risk" for HD provides significant advantages over current methods, eliminating the need for complicated linkage analyses, facilitating genetic counseling, and extending the applicability of presymptomatic and prenatal diagnosis to "at risk" individuals with no living affected relatives, however, it is of the utmost importance that the current internationally accepted guidelines and counseling protocols for testing those "at risk" continue to be observed, and that samples from unaffected relatives should not be tested inadvertently or without full consent. In the series of patients examined in this study, there is an apparent correlation between repeat length and age of onset of the disease, reminiscent of that reported in myotonic dystrophy (Harley et al., Lancet 339:1125-1128 (1992); Tsilfidis et al., Nature Genet. 1:192-195 (1992)). The largest HD trinucleotide repeat segments were found in juvenile onset cases, where there is a known preponderance of male transmission (Merrit et al., Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam, pp. 645-650 (1969)).

[0129] The expression of fragile X syndrome is associated with direct inactivation of the *FMR1* gene (Pierretti *et al.*, *Cell* 66:817-822 (1991); DeBoulle *et al.*, *Nature Genet.* 3:31-35 (1993)). The recessive inheritance pattern of spino-bulbar muscular atrophy suggests that in this disorder, an inactive gene product is produced. In myotonic dystrophy, the manner in which repeat expansion leads to the dominant disease phenotype is unknown. There are numerous possibilities for the mechanism of pathogenesis of the expanded trinucleotide repeat in HD. Without intending to be held to this theory, nevertheless notice can be taken that since Wolf-Hirschhorn patients hemizygous for 4p16.3 do not display features of HD, and IT15 mRNA is present in *HD* homozygotes, the expanded trinucleotide repeat does not cause simple inactivation of the gene containing it. The observation that the phenotype of *HD* is completely dominant, since homozygotes for the disease allele do not differ clinically from heterozygotes, has suggested that HD results from a gain of function mutation, in which either the mRNA product or the protein product of the disease allele would have some new property, or be expressed inappropriately (Wexler *et al.*, *Nature* 326:194-197 (1987); Myers *et al.*, *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 45:615-618 (1989)). If the expanded trinucleotide repeat were translated, the consequences on the protein product would be dramatic, increasing the length of the poly-glutamine stretch near the N-terminus. It is possible, however, that despite the presence of an upstream Met codon, the normal translational start occurs 3' to the (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeat and there is no poly-glutamine stretch in the protein product. In this case, the repeat would be in the 5' untrans-

lated region and might be expected to have its dominant effect at the mRNA level. The presence of an expanded repeat might directly alter regulation, localization, stability or translatability of the mRNA containing it, and could indirectly affect its counterpart from the normal allele in HD heterozygotes. Other conceivable scenarios are that the presence of an expanded repeat might alter the effective translation start site for the HD transcript, thereby truncating the protein, or alter the transcription start site for the IT15 gene, disrupting control of mRNA expression. Finally, although the repeat is located within the IT15 transcript, the possibility that it leads to HD by virtue of an action on the expression of an adjacent gene cannot be excluded.

[0130] Despite this final caveat, it is consistent with the above results and most likely that the trinucleotide repeat expansion causes HD by its effect, either at the mRNA or protein level, on the expression and/or structure of the protein product of the IT15 gene, which has been named huntingtin. Outside of the region of the triplet repeat, the IT15 DNA sequence detected no significant similarity to any previously reported gene in the GenBank database. Except for the stretches of glutamine and proline near the N-terminus, the amino acid sequence displayed no similarity to known proteins, providing no conspicuous clues to huntingtin's function. The poly-glutamine and poly-proline region near the N-terminus detect similarity with a large number of proteins which also contain long stretches of these amino acids. It is difficult to assess the significance of such similarities, although it is notable that many of these are DNA binding proteins and that huntingtin does have a single leucine zipper motiff at residue 1,443. Huntingtin appears to be widely expressed, and yet cell death in HD is confined to specific neurons in particular regions of the brain.

TABLE 1.

			1. ,					
20		COMPARISON	OF HD AND NORMAL	REPEAT SIZES				
	RANGE OF ALLELE SIZES (#REPEATS)	NORMAL CHROMO AND FRE		HD CHROMOSOMES NUMBER AN FREQUENCY				
25	≥ 48	0	0	44	0.59			
	42-47	0	0	30	0,41			
	30-41	2	0.01	0	0			
30	25-30	2	0.01	0	0			
30	≤ 24	169	0.98	0	0			
	TOTAL	173	1.00	74	1.0			

## Example 5

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Distribution of Trinucleotide Repeat Lengths on Normal and HD Chromosomes

[0131] The number of copies of the HD triplet repeat has been examined in a total of 425 HD chromosomes from 150 independent families and compared with the copy number of the HD triplet repeat of 545 normal chromosomes. The results are displayed in Figure 11. Two non-overlapping distributions of repeat length were observed, wherein the upper end of the normal range and the lower end of the HD range were separated by 3 repeat units. The normal chromosomes displayed 24 alleles producing PCR products ranging from 11 to 34 repeat units, with a median of 19 units (mean 19.71, s.d. 3.21). The HD chromosomes yielded 54 discrete PCR products corresponding to repeat lengths of 37 to 86 units, with a median of 45 units (mean 46.42, s.d. 6.68).

[0132] Of the HD chromosomes, 134 and 161 were known to be maternally or paternally-derived, respectively. To investigate whether the sex of the transmitting parent might influence the distribution of repeat lengths, these two sets of chromosomes were plotted separately in Figure 12. The maternally-derived chromosomes displayed repeat lengths ranging from 37 to 73 units, with a median of 44 (mean 44.93, s.d. 5.14). The paternally-derived chromosomes had 37 to 86 copies of the repeat unit, with a median of 48 units (mean 49.14, s.d. 8.27). However, a higher proportion of the paternally-derived HD chromosomes had repeat lengths greater than 55 units (16% vs. 2%), suggesting the possibility of a differential effect of paternal versus maternal transmission.

[0133] The data set used excluded chromosomes from a few clinically diagnosed individuals who have previously been shown not to have inherited the HD chromosome by DNA marker linkage studies (MacDonald, M.E., et al., Neuron 3:183-190 (1989); Pritchard, C., et al., Am. J. Hum. Genet. 50:1218-1230 (1992)). These individuals have repeat lengths well within the normal range. Their disease manifestations have not been explained, and they may represent phenocopies of HD. Regardless of the mechanism involved, the occurrence at low frequency of such individuals within known HD families must be considered if diagnostic conclusions are based solely on repeat length.

**[0134]** The control data set also excludes a number of chromosomes from phenotypically normal individuals who are related to "spontaneous" cases of HD or "new mutations". Chromosomes from these individuals who are not clinically affected and have no family history of the disorder cannot be designated as HD. However, these chromosomes cannot be classified as unambiguously normal because they are essentially the same chromosome as that of an affected relative, the diagnosed "spontaneous" HD proband, except with respect to repeat length. The lengths of repeat found on these ambiguous chromosomes (34-38 units) span the gap between the control and HD distributions, confounding a decision on the status of any individual with a repeat in the high normal to low HD range.

### Example 6

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Instability of the Trinucleotide Repeat

[0135] The data in Figure 11 combine repeat lengths from 150 different HD families representing many potentially independent origins of the defect. To examine the variation in repeat lengths on sets of HD chromosomes known to descend from a common founder, the data from three large HD kindreds (Gusella, J.F., et al., Nature 306:234-238 (1983); Wexler, N.S., et al., Nature 326:194-197 (1987); Folstein, S.E., et al., Science 229:776-779 (1985)) with different 4p16.3 haplotypes (MacDonald, M.E., et al., Nature Genet. 1:99-103 (1992)), typed for 75, 25 and 35 individuals, respectively, were separated. Despite the single origin of the founder HD chromosome within each pedigree, members of the separate pedigrees display a wide range of repeat lengths (Figure 13). This instability of the HD chromosome repeat is most prominent in members of a large Venezuelan HD kindred (panel A) In which the common HD ancestor has produced 10 generations of descendants, numbering over 13,000 individuals. The distribution of repeat lengths in this sampling of the Venezuelan pedigree (median 46, mean 48.26, s.d. 9.3) is not significantly different from that of the larger sample of HD chromosomes from all families. Panels B and C display results for two extended families in which HD was introduced more recently than in the Venezuelan kindred. These families have been reported to exhibit different age of onset distributions and varied phenotypic features of HD (Folstein, S.E., et al., Science 229:776-779 (1985)). Both revealed extensive repeat length variation, with a median of 41 and 49 repeat units, respectively. The distribution of repeat lengths in the members of the family in Panel B was significantly different from the distribution of all HD chromosome repeat lengths (p<0.0001), with a smaller mean of 42.04 repeat units (s.d. 2.82). The repeat distribution from HD chromosomes of Panel C was also significantly different from the total data set (p<0.004), but with a higher mean of 49.80(s.d. 5.86).

## Example 7

Parental Source Effects on Repeat Length Variation

**[0136]** For 62 HD chromosomes in Figure 11, the length of the trinucleotide repeat also could be examined on the corresponding parental HD chromosome. In 20 of 25 maternal transmissions, and in 31 of 37 paternal transmissions, the repeat length was altered, indicating considerable instability. A similar phenomenon was not observed for normal chromosomes, where more than 500 meiotic transmissions revealed no changes in repeat length, although the very existence of such a large number of normal alleles suggests at least a low degree. of instability.

**[0137]** Figure 14 shows the relationship between the repeat lengths on the HD chromosomes in the affected parent and corresponding progeny. For the 20 maternally-inherited chromosomes on which the repeat length was altered, 13 changes were increases in length and 7 were decreases. Both increases and decreases involved changes of less than 5 repeat units and the overall correlation between the mother's repeat length and that of her child was r=0.95 (p<0.0001). The average change in repeat length in the 25 maternal transmissions was an increase of 0.4 repeats.

[0138] On paternally-derived chromosomes, the 31 transmissions in which the repeat length changes comprised 26 length increases and 5 length decreases. Although the decreases in size were only slightly smaller than those observed on maternally-derived chromosomes, ranging from 1 to 3 repeat units, the increases were often dramatically larger. Thus, the correlation of the repeat length in the father with that of his offspring was only r=0.35 (p<0.04). The average change in the 37 paternal transmissions was an increase of 9 repeat units. The maximum length increase observed through paternal transmission was 41 repeat units, a near doubling of the parental repeat.

[0139] For both male and female transmissions, there was no correlation between the size of the parental repeat and either the magnitude or frequency of changes.

**[0140]** To determine whether the variation in the length of the repeat observed through male transmission of HD chromosomes is reflected in the male germ cells, we amplified the repeat from sperm DNA and from DNA of the corresponding lymphoblast from 5 HD gene carriers. The results, shown in Figure 15, reveal striking differences between the lymphoblast and sperm DNA for the HD chromosome repeat, but not for the repeat on the normal chromosome. All the sperm donors are members of the Venezuelan HD family and range in age from 24 to 30 years. Individuals

1 and 2 are siblings with HD chromosome repeat lengths based on lymphoblast DNA of 45 and 52, respectively. Individuals 3 and 4 are also siblings, with HD repeat lengths of 46 and 49, respectively. Individual 5, from a different sibship than either of the other two pairs, has an HD repeat of 52 copies. In all 5 cases, the PCR amplification of sperm DNA and lymphoblast DNA yielded identical products from the normal chromosome. However, in comparison with lymphoblast DNA, the HD gene from sperm DNA yielded a diffuse array of products. In 3 of the 5 cases (2,4 and 5), the diffuse array spread to much larger allelic products than the corresponding lymphoblast product. Subject 2 showed the greatest range of expansion, with the sperm DNA product extending to over 80 repeat units. Interestingly, the 3 individuals displaying the greatest variation have the longest repeats and are currently symptomatic. The other two donors have shorter repeat lengths in the HD range, and remain at risk at this time.

[0141] The striking difference in the high repeat length range (>55) between HD chromosomes transmitted from the father and those transmitted from the mother indicated a potential parental source effect. When this was examined directly, the HD chromosome repeat length changed in about 85% of transmissions. Most changes involved a fluctuation of only a few repeat units, with larger increases occurring only in male transmissions. The greater size increases in male transmission appear to be caused by particular instability of the HD trinucleotide repeat during male gametogenesis, based on the amplification of the repeat from sperm DNA.

### Example 8

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Relationship between Repeat Length and Age of Onset

[0142] Increased repeat length might correlate with a reduced age of onset of HD. Accordingly, age of onset data was determined for 234 of the individuals represented in Figure 11. Figure 16 displays the repeat lengths found on the HD and normal chromosomes of these individuals relative to their age of onset. Indeed, age of onset is inversely correlated with the HD repeat length. A Pearson correlation coefficient of r=-.75, p <0.0001 was obtained assuming a linear relationship between age of onset and repeat length. When a polynomial function was used, a better fit was obtained ( $R^2$ =0.61, F=121.45), suggesting a higher order association between age of onset and repeat length.

[0143] There is considerable variation in the age of onset associated with any specific number of repeat units, particularly for trinucleotide repeats in the 37-52 unit zone (88% of HD chromosomes) where onset ranged from 15 to 75 years. In this range, a linear relationship between age of onset and repeat length provided as good a fit as a higher order relationship. The 95% confidence interval surrounding the predicted regression line was estimated at  $\pm 18$  years. In the 37 to 52 unit range, the association of repeat length to onset age is only half as strong as in the overall distribution (r=-0.40, p<.0001), indicating that much of the predictive power is contributed by repeats longer than 52 units. In this increased range, onset is likely to be very young and consequently not relevant to most persons seeking testing.

[0144] For the 178 cases in the 37-52 repeat unit range for which it was possible to subdivide the data set based on parental origin of the HD gene, multivariate regression analysis suggested a significant effect of parental origin on age of onset (p < 0.05) independent of repeat length in this range. HD gene carriers from maternal transmissions had an average age of onset two years later than those from paternal transmissions.

[0145] In both univariate and multivariate analyses, no association between age of onset and the repeat length on the normal chromosome was detected, either in the total data set, or when it was subdivided into chromosomes of maternal or paternal origin.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

### [0146]

(i) APPLICANT: THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION

Fruit Street Boston, Massachusetts 02114 United States of America

- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Huntingtin DNA, Protein And Uses Thereof
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 6
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

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5	(A) KILBURN & STRODE (B) 30 JOHN STREET (C) LONDON (D) GREAT BRITAIN (E) WC1N 2DD
	(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
10	<ul><li>(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk</li><li>(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible</li><li>(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS</li><li>(D) SOFTWARE: Patentin Release #1.0, Version #1.25</li></ul>
15	(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
	(A) 7th March 1994
	(vii)PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
20	(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 08/085,000 (B) FILING DATE: 01 JULY 1993
	(vii)PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
25	(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 08/027,498 (B) FILING DATE: 05 MARCH 1993
	(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:
30	[0147]
	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
35	<ul><li>(A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs</li><li>(B) TYPE: nucleic acid</li><li>(C) STRANDEDNESS: single</li><li>(D) TOPOLOGY: linear</li></ul>
40	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:
	GGCGGGAGAC CGCCATGGCG 20
45	(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:
,,,	[0148]
	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
50	<ul><li>(A) LENGTH: 17 base pairs</li><li>(B) TYPE: nucleic acid</li><li>(C) STRANDEDNESS: single</li><li>(D) TOPOLOGY: linear</li></ul>
55	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

17

AATACGACTC ACTATAG

	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:	
5	<ul><li>(A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs</li><li>(B) TYPE: nucleic acid</li><li>(C) STRANDEDNESS: single</li><li>(D) TOPOLOGY: linear</li></ul>	
	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:	
10	ATGAAGGCCT TCGAGTCCCT CAAGTCCTTC	3
	(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:	
15	[0149]	
	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:	
20	<ul><li>(A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs</li><li>(B) TYPE: nucleic acid</li><li>(C) STRANDEDNESS: single</li><li>(D) TOPOLOGY: linear</li></ul>	
25	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:	
	AAACTCACGG TCGGTGCAGC GGCTCCTCAG	30
30	(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:	
	[0150]	
	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:	
35	<ul><li>(A) LENGTH: 10366 base pairs</li><li>(B) TYPE: nucleic acid</li><li>(C) STRANDEDNESS: single</li><li>(D) TOPOLOGY: linear</li></ul>	
40	(ix) FEATURE:	
	(A) NAME/KEY: CDS (B) LOCATION: 3169748	
45	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:	
50		

	TTGCTGTGTG AGGCAGAACC TGCGGGGGCA GGGGCGGGCT GGTTCCCTGG CCAGCCATTG	60
	GCAGAGTCCG CAGGCTAGGG CTGTCAATCA TGCTGGCCGG CGTGGCCCCG CCTCCGCCGG	120
5	CGCGGCCCCG CCTCCGCCGG CGCACGTCTG GGACGCAAGG CGCCGTGGGG GCTGCCGGGA	180
	CGGGTCCAAG ATGGACGGCC GCTCAGGTTC TGCTTTTACC TGCGGCCCAG AGCCCCATTC	240
	ATTGCCCCGG TGCTGAGCGG CGCCGCGAGT CGGCCCGAGG CCTCCGGGGA CTGCCGTGCC	300
10	GGGCGGGAGA CCGCC ATG GCG ACC CTG GAA AAG CTG ATG AAG GCC TTC GAG Met Ala Thr Leu Glu Lys Leu Met Lys Ala Phe Glu 1 5 10	351
15	TCC CTC AAG TCC TTC CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CA	399
	CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAG CAA CAG CCG CC	447
20	CCG CCG CCG CCG CCT CCT CAG CTT CCT CAG CCG CCG CCG CAG GCA Pro Pro Pro Pro Pro Pro Gln Leu Pro Gln Pro Pro Pro Gln Ala 45 50 55 60	495
05	CAG CCG CTG CTG CCT CAG CCG CAG CCG CCC CCG CCG CCG CCG CCG	543
25	CCA CCC GGC CCG GCT GTG GCT GAG GAG CCG CTG CAC CGA CCA AAG AAA	591

	Pro	Pro	Gl	Pr 8		a Va	l Ala	a Gl	u G1 8		o Le	u Hi	s Arg	g Pro		s Lys	
5				Al					p Ar					5 Le		A ATA r Ile	639
			Ası					ı Sei					Pro			r CAG e Gln	687
10		Leu					Met					ı Lev				GAC Asp 140	735
15						Arg					Glu					GTT Val	783
					Met					Pro					Glu	CTC Leu	831
20					AAA Lys				Ala							GCC Ala	879
					GCT Ala												927
25					GTG Val												975
30	AGA Arg																1023
	ATT Ile																1071
35	TTG Leu	Leu															1119
	CGG Arg																1167
40	AGG A Arg ( 285																1215
45	CTC (			Val					Ser					Leu			1263
	CTG ( Leu I		Thr					Val					Gln				1311
50	GAC A	hr :	AGC ( Ser :	CTG Leu	AAA Lys	GGC :	Ser :	TTC Phe 340	GGA Gly	G <b>TG</b> Val	ACA Thr	Arg	AAA Lys 345	GAA Glu	ATG Met	GAA Glu	1359
	GTC T Val S					Glu (					Val						1407
55	CAT C																1455

	36	5				370	י				37	5				380	
5	CT <sup>c</sup> Le	G TT u Le	G CAC	G CAC	CTC Leu 385	Phe	AGA Arg	A AC	G CC' r Pr	T CC. o Pro 39	o Pro	C GAC 5 Glu	CTI Leu	CTC Lev	CAZ Glr 395	A ACC Thr	1503
10					Gly					n Lei					Glu	GAG Glu	1551
	TC: Sei	r GGT	GGC Gly 415	Arg	AGC Ser	CGT Arg	AGT Ser	GG( G1) 420	/ Sei	r ATT	r GTC Val	GAA Glu	CTT Leu 425	Ile	GCT Ala	GGA Gly	1599
15			' Ser	TCA Ser				Val									1647
		Leu		GGA Gly								Asp					1695
20				AGC Ser							Ser						1743
25				CTG Leu 480						Val							1791
				ATC Ile													1839
30				CTG Leu							Leu						1887
				GAG Glu													1935
35				TCT Ser													1983
40				ATC Ile 560													2031
40				ACC Thr			Asp					Val					2079
45				TAT Tyr		Gly :											2127
				ACA (	Gly :										Phe .		2175
50				ATG (					Ala					Asn i			2223
			Arg	CAG ( Gln I 640				Ser					Phe '				2271
55	GAT Asp	GAA Glu	GCT A	ACT ( Thr (	BAA C Blu F	ccc (	SGT (	GAT Asp	CAA Gln	GAA . Glu .	AAC . Asn	AAG ( Lys )	Pro (	rgc ( Cys )	arg :	ATC Ile	2319

			655	;				660	)				665				
5		A GG1 8 Gly 670	/ Asp					Thi					Ala			GTC Val	2367
40		TCT Ser					Ser					Leu					2415
10		GTG Val									Val						2463
15		CTC Leu															2511
		AGC Ser															2559
20		CAG Gln 750															2607
		GTT Val															2655
25		CTC Leu		Arg													2703
30		ACC Thr	Leu					Phe					Cys				2751
		CGG Arg					Asp					Thr					2799
35	TGT Cys	ACA Thr 830				Asπ					Leu						2847
		GAG Glu			Leu (					Asp					Arg a		2895
40		TCC ' Ser '		rp I					Glu :					beu 1			2943
	ATT	GAC : Asp	Phe A	AGG C	TG G	TG F	AGC T Ser E	he 1	rtg ( Leu ( 385	BAG ( Blu /	GCA A	AAA ( Lya A	la (	AA A Slu A 190	AC 1 ASN I	TTA Leu	2991
45	CAC His	Arg (					yr I					ys I					3039
50	GTG (					al I					ly A						3087
	GTG ( Val 1 925				la A					le P					ys I		3135
55	TTT 1 Phe 1																3183

	945	950 955	
5		NG AAA CTT CTC ATG CAT GAG ACG C EU Lys Leu Leu Met His Glu Thr G 965	
10		C ACA ATA ACC AGA ATA TAT AGA G T Thr Ile Thr Arg Ile Tyr Arg G 985	
		A GAC GTC ACT ATG GAA AAT AAC C r Asp Val Thr Met Glu Asn Asn L 1000	
15		T CAT GAA CTA ATC ACA TCA ACC A r His Glu Leu Ile Thr Ser Thr T 1015	
		T GAA GCT TTG TGT CTT CTT TCC A s Glu Ala Leu Cys Leu Leu Ser T 1030 1035	
20		T TTA GGT TGG CAC TGT GGA GTG CC r Leu Gly Trp His Cys Gly Val Pr 1045 1050	
25		r AGG AAG AGC TGT ACC GTT GGG AT r Arg Lys Ser Cys Thr Val Gly Me 50 1065	
	GCC ACA ATG ATT CTG ACC CTG CTC Ala Thr Met Ile Leu Thr Leu Leu 1070 1075		
30	CTC TCA GCC CAT CAA GAT GCT TTG Leu Ser Ala His Gln Asp Ala Leu 1085 1090	Ile Leu Ala Gly Asn Leu Leu Al	
	GCC AGT GCT CCC AAA TCT CTG AGA Ala Ser Ala Pro Lys Ser Leu Arg 1105		
35	GCC AAC CCA GCA GCC ACC AAG CAA Ala Asn Pro Ala Ala Thr Lys Gln 1120		
	GAC CGG GCC CTG GTG CCC ATG GTG Asp Arg Ala Leu Val Pro Met Val 1135 114	Glu Gln Leu Phe Ser His Leu Le	
40	AAG GTG ATT AAC ATT TGT GCC CAC Lys Val Ile Asn Ile Cys Ala His 1150 1155		
45	CCC GCA ATA AAG GCA GCC TTG CCT Pro Ala Ile Lys Ala Ala Leu Pro 1165 1170		1
	AGT CCC ATC CGA CGA AAG GGG AAG Ser Pro Ile Arg Arg Lys Gly Lys 1185		
50	TCT GTA CCG TTG AGT CCC AAG AAA Ser Val Pro Leu Ser Pro Lys Lys 1200		
	AGA CAA TCT GAT ACC TCA GGT CCT Arg Gln Ser Asp Thr Ser Gly Pro 1215 1220	Val Thr Thr Ser Lys Ser Ser Ser	
55	CTG GGG AGT TTC TAT CAT CTT CCT Leu Gly Ser Phe Tyr His Leu Pro		

	1230	1235	1240	
5			GTC ACG CTG GAT CTT CAG AA Val Thr Leu Asp Leu Gln As 1255	n
10			CGC TCA GCC TTG GAT GTT CT Arg Ser Ala Leu Asp Val Leu 1270 1275	
		Glu Leu Ala Thr Leu	CAG GAC ATT GGG AAG TGT GTT Gln Asp Ile Gly Lys Cys Val 5 1290	
15			TGC TTT AGT CGA GAA CCA ATG Cys Phe Ser Arg Glu Pro Met 1305	
			TTG AAG ACT CTC TTT GGC ACA Leu Lys Thr Leu Phe Gly Thr 1320	
20			TCT TCC AAC CCC AGC AAG TCA Ser Ser Asn Pro Ser Lys Ser 1335 134	
	Gln Gly Arg Ala	Gln Arg Leu Gly Ser	TCC AGT GTG AGG CCA GGC TTG Ser Ser Val Arg Pro Gly Leu 1350 1355	
25		Phe Met Ala Pro Tyr	ACC CAC TTC ACC CAG GCC CTC Thr His Phe Thr Gln Ala Leu 1370	
30			CAG GCG GAG CAG GAG AAC GAC Gln Ala Glu Gln Glu Asn Asp 1385	4479
			AAA GTG TCT ACC CAG TTG AAG Lys Val Ser Thr Gln Leu Lys 1400	4527
35			CGT GCA GAT AAG AAT GCT ATT Arg Ala Asp Lys Asn Ala Ile 1415 1420	<b>4</b> 575
	His Asn His Ile A	Arg Leu Phe Glu Pro L	CTT GTT ATA AAA GCT TTA AAA Leu Val Ile Lys Ala Leu Lys 1435	4623
40			TTA CAG AAG CAG GTT TTA GAT Leu Gln Lys Gln Val Leu Asp 1450	4671
45			OTT AAT TAC TGT CTT CTG GAT (al Asn Tyr Cys Leu Leu Asp 1465	4719
10			TG AAA CAG TTT GAA TAC ATT eu Lys Gln Phe Glu Tyr Ile 1480	4767
50			CA ATC ATT CCA AAC ATC TTT la Ile Ile Pro Asn Ile Phe 1495 1500	4815
	Phe Phe Leu Val L	eu Leu Ser Tyr Glu A	GC TAT CAT TCA AAA CAG ATC rg Tyr His Ser Lys Gln Ile 510 1515	4863
55			GT GAT GGC ATC ATG GCC AGT ys Asp Gly Ile Met Ala Ser	4911

	1520	1525	1530	
5	GGA AGG AAG GCT GTG ACA CAT Gly Arg Lys Ala Val Thr His 1535			4959
10	CAC GAC CTC TTT GTA TTA AGA His Asp Leu Phe Val Leu Arg 1550 1555	Gly Thr Asn Lys A		5007
	GAG CTT GAA ACC CAA AAA GAG Glu Leu Glu Thr Gln Lys Glu 1565 1570			5055
15	ATC CAG TAC CAT CAG GTG TTG Ile Gln Tyr His Gln Val Leu 1585			5103
	TGC CAC AAG GAG AAT GAA GAC Cys His Lys Glu Asn Glu Asp 1600			5151
20	GCT GAC ATC ATC CTC CCA ATG Ala Asp Ile Ile Leu Pro Met 1615			5199
	TCT CAT GAA GCC CTT GGA GTG Ser His Glu Ala Leu Gly Val 1630 1635	Leu Asn Thr Leu P		5247
25 -	CCT TCC TCC CTC CGT CCG GTA C Pro Ser Ser Leu Arg Pro Val 1 1645			5295
30	ACT CCA AAC ACA ATG GCG TCC C Thr Pro Asn Thr Met Ala Ser V 1665			5343
	GGA ATT CTG GCC ATT TTG AGG ( Gly Ile Leu Ala Ile Leu Arg ( 1680			5391
35	ATT GTT CTT TCT CGT ATT CAG of Ile Val Leu Ser Arg Ile Gln of 1695			5439
	TCC TGT ACA GTA ATT AAT AGG T Ser Cys Thr Val Ile Asn Arg I 1710 1715	eu Arg Asp Gly As		5487
40	CTA GAA GAA CAC AGT GAA GGG A Leu Glu Glu His Ser Glu Gly L 1725			5535
45	ACA TTT TCA AGG TTT CTA TTA C Thr Phe Ser Arg Phe Leu Leu G 1745			5583
	ATT GTT ACA AAA CAG CTG AAG G Ile Val Thr Lys Gln Leu Lys V 1760			5631
50	TTC TAT TGC CAG GAA CTA GGC A Phe Tyr Cys Gln Glu Leu Gly T 1775	CA CTG CTA ATG TG hr Leu Leu Met Cy 780	T CTG ATC CAC ATC s Leu Ile His Ile 1785	5679
	TTC AAG TCT GGA ATG TTC CGG AG Phe Lys Ser Gly Met Phe Arg A: 1790 1795		a Ala Thr Arg Leu	5727
55	TTC CGC AGT GAT GGC TGT GGC G			5775

	1805	1810	1815	1820
5	AAC TTG CGG GCT CGT Asn Leu Arg Ala Arg 182	TCC ATG ATC ACC ACC Ser Met Ile Thr Thr 5	: His Pro Ala Leu Va	G CTG 5823 1 Leu 35
10	CTC TGG TGT CAG ATA Leu Trp Cys Gln Ile 1840	CTG CTG CTT GTC AAC Leu Leu Leu Val Asn 1845	C CAC ACC GAC TAC CG His Thr Asp Tyr Ar 1850	C TGG 5871 g Trp
	TGG GCA GAA GTG CAG Trp Ala Glu Val Gln 1855	CAG ACC CCG AAA AGA Gln Thr Pro Lys Arg 1860	CAC AGT CTG TCC AG His Ser Leu Ser Se 1865	C ACA 5919 r Thr
15	AAG TTA CTT AGT CCC Lys Leu Leu Ser Pro 1870	CAG ATG TCT GGA GAA Gln Met Ser Gly Glu 1875	GAG GAG GAT TCT GA Glu Glu Asp Ser As 1880	C TTG 5967 p Leu
		ATG TGC AAT AGA GAA Met Cys Asn Arg Glu 1890		
20	CTC ATT CTC TTC TGT Leu Ile Leu Phe Cys 1905	Asp Tyr Val Cys Gln	Asn Leu His Asp Ser	r_Glu
	CAC TTA ACG TGG CTC His Leu Thr Trp Leu 1920			
25	TCC CAC GAG CCT CCA Ser His Glu Pro Pro 1935			
30	TCT GCT GCC AGC GGC Ser Ala Ala Ser Gly 1950			
	AAC CTT TCA ACT CCA Asn Leu Ser Thr Pro 1965	ACC ATG CTG AAG AAA Thr Met Leu Lys Lys 1970	ACT CTT CAG TGC TTC Thr Leu Gln Cys Leu 1975	GAG 6255 Glu 1980
35	GGG ATC CAT CTC AGC Gly Ile His Leu Ser 1985	Gln Ser Gly Ala Val	Leu Thr Leu Tyr Val	Asp
	AGG CTT CTG TGC ACC ATG Leu Leu Cys Thr			
40	CTT GCT TGT CGC CGG ( Leu Ala Cys Arg Arg V 2015	GTA GAA ATG CTT CTG Val Glu Met Leu Leu 2020	GCT GCA AAT TTA CAG Ala Ala Asn Leu Gln 2025	AGC 6399 Ser
45	AGC ATG GCC CAG TTG C Ser Met Ala Gln Leu I 2030			
	CTT CAG AGC AGC GGG C Leu Gln Ser Ser Gly I 2045	Leu Ala Gln Arg His (		
50	CTG GAC AGG TTT CGT C Leu Asp Arg Phe Arg I 2065		Asp Ser Leu Ser Pro	Ser
	CCT CCA GTC TCT TCC C Pro Pro Val Ser Ser F 2080			
55	GAA ACA GTG AGT CCG G Glu Thr Val Ser Pro A			

	2095		2100	2105	
5			Ser Ala Leu Leu G	AA GGT GCA GAG CTG lu Gly Ala Glu Leu 120	6687
10	Val Asn Arg Ile 2125	Pro Ala Glu 2130	Asp Met Asn Ala P 2135	TC ATG ATG AAC TCG he Met Met Asn Ser 2140	6735
				GC CTA GGG ATG AGT er Leu Gly Met Ser 2155	6783
15		Gly Gln Lys		AA GCA GCC CGT GAG lu Ala Ala Arg Glu 2170	6831
		Arg Val Ser		AG CTC CCT GCT GTC in Leu Pro Ala Val 2185	6879
20			Leu Pro Ala Glu Pr	eg GCG GCC TAC TGG to Ala Ala Tyr Trp 100	6927
25				G TAT CAG TCC CTG u Tyr Gln Ser Leu 2220	6975
			GCA CAG TAC CTG GT Ala Gln Tyr Leu Va 2230	G GTG GTC TCC AAA l Val Val Ser Lys 2235	7023
30		Leu His Leu E	CCT CCT GAG AAA GA Pro Pro Glu Lys Gl 2245		7071
		Ala Thr Leu G	AG GCC CTG TCC TG lu Ala Leu Ser Tr 260		7119
35			AT CTC CAG GCA GG sp Leu Gln Ala Gl 22	y Leu Asp Cys Cys	7167
			GC CTC TGG AGC GTC ly Leu Trp Ser Va: 2295		7215
40	Glu Phe Val Thr		CC CTC ATC TAC TG er Leu Ile Tyr Cys 2310		7263
45			CT GGA GAG CAG CTT ro Gly Glu Gln Let 2325		7311
		Thr Pro Lys A	CC ATC AGC GAG GAC la Ile Ser Glu Glu 340		7359
50			AG TAT ATC ACT GCA ys Tyr Ile Thr Ala 236	Ala Cys Glu Met	7407
			rg cag tcg grg tre eu Gln Ser Val Leu 2375		7455
55			CG TTT CTC ACG CCA La Phe Leu Thr Pro		7503

	2385	2390	2395
5	ATC ATC ATC AGC CTG GCC CGC CTG Ile Ile Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Leu 2400	ı Pro Leu Val Asn Ser T	
40	GTG CCC CCA CTG GTG TGG AAG CTT Val Pro Pro Leu Val Trp Lys Leu 2415 242	Gly Trp Ser Pro Lys P	
10	GAT TTT GGC ACA GCA TTC CCT GAG Asp Phe Gly Thr Ala Phe Pro Glu 2430 2435		
15	AAG GAA GTC TTT AAG GAG TTC ATC Lys Glu Val Phe Lys Glu Phe Ile 2445		
	ACC AGT CGT ACT CAG TTT GAA GAA Thr Ser Arg Thr Gln Phe Glu Glu 2465		
20	CTG GTG ACG CAG CCC CTC GTG ATG Leu Val Thr Gln Pro Leu Val Met 2480	Glu Gln Glu Glu Ser Pr	A CCA GAA 7791 o Pro Glu 90
	GAA GAC ACA GAG AGG ACC CAG ATC Glu Asp Thr Glu Arg Thr Gln Ile 2495 2500	Asn Val Leu Ala Val Gl	
25	ACC TCA CTG GTG CTC AGT GCA ATG Thr Ser Leu Val Leu Ser Ala Met 2510 2515		
30	GCT GTA AGC TGC TTG GAG CAG CAG Ala Val Ser Cys Leu Glu Gln Gln 2525 2530	CCC CGG AAC AAG CCT CT Pro Arg Asn Lys Pro Let 2535	G AAA GCT 7935 u Lys Ala 2540
	CTC GAC ACC AGG TTT GGG AGG AAG Leu Asp Thr Arg Phe Gly Arg Lys 2545		
35	GAG CAA GAG ATT CAA GCA ATG GTT Glu Gln Glu Ile Gln Ala Met Val 2560		e Ala Thr
	CAT CAT TTA TAT CAG GCA TGG GAT His His Leu Tyr Gln Ala Trp Asp 2575 2580		
40	ACT ACA GGT GCC CTC ATC AGC CAC C Thr Thr Gly Ala Leu Ile Ser His C 2590 2595		
45	CCC GAG CGG GAG CTG GGG AGC ATG Pro Glu Arg Glu Leu Gly Ser Met 5		
40	ATA CAC TCC GTG TGG CTG GGG AAC F Ile His Ser Val Trp Leu Gly Asn S 2625		
50	GAA TGG GAC GAG GAA GAG GAG GAG GIu Trp Asp Glu		Pro Ser
	TCA CCA CCC ACG TCT CCA GTC AAC T Ser Pro Pro Thr Ser Pro Val Asn S 2655 2660		
55	GAC ATC CAC TCC TGT TCG CAG TTT T Asp Ile His Ser Cys Ser Gln Phe L		

	2670	2675	2680	
5			C CCG GCC ATC CTG ATC AGT 84 r Pro Ala Ile Leu Ile Ser 2695 2700	15
10	Glu Val Val Arg	Ser Leu Leu Val Val Ser 2705 271	- · - •	63
		Leu Met Tyr Val Thr Leu	G ACA GAA CTG CGA AGG GTG 851 1 Thr Glu Leu Arg Arg Val 2730	11
15			B TAC CTG GTG CCT GCC ACC 855 1 Tyr Leu Val Pro Ala Thr 2745	9
			C AAG GCC GTG GCG GAG CCT 860 b Lys Ala Val Ala Glu Pro 2760	7
20			G AGC AGC CAC CTG CCC AGC 865 Ser Ser His Leu Pro Ser 2775 2780	5
			GTG CTG GAG TGC GAC CTG 870 Val Leu Glu Cys Asp Leu 0 2795	3
25		Ala Lys Gln Leu Ile Pro	GTC ATC AGC GAC TAT CTC 875. Val Ile Ser Asp Tyr Leu 2810	1
30			GTG AAC ATT CAC AGC CAG 8799 Val Asn Ile His Ser Gln 2825	9
		GTC ATG TGT GCC ACT GCG Val Met Cys Ala Thr Ala 2835		7
35		GTA GGG CCG GAA TTT TCA Val Gly Pro Glu Phe Ser 2850		ĵ
	Cys Gly Val Met	CTG TCT GGA AGT GAG GAG Leu Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu 2865 2870	Ser Thr Pro Ser Ile Ile	i
40		CTC AGA GGC CTG GAG CGC Leu Arg Gly Leu Glu Arg 2885		
45	CTC TCC CGC CTG ( Leu Ser Arg Leu 1 2895	GAT GCA GAA TCG CTG GTC Asp Ala Glu Ser Leu Val 2900	AAG CTG AGT GTG GAC AGA 9039 Lys Leu Ser Val Asp Arg 2905	
		AGC CCG CAC CGG GCC ATG Ser Pro His Arg Ala Met 2915		
50		TAC ACA GGA AAG GAG AAA Tyr Thr Gly Lys Glu Lys 2930		
	Ser Asp Pro Asn F	CCT GCA GCC CCC GAC AGC ( Pro Ala Ala Pro Asp Ser ( 2945 2950	Glu Ser Val Ile Val Ala	
55		CT GTT CTT TTT GAT AGG P Ger Val Leu Phe Asp Arg		

	2960	2965 2970	
5	TGT GAA GCC AGA GTG GTG GCC AGG Cys Glu Ala Arg Val Val Ala Arg 2975 2986	Ile Leu Pro Gln Phe Leu Asp Asp	279
10	TTC TTC CCA CCC CAG GAC ATC ATG Phe Phe Pro Pro Gln Asp Ile Met 2990 2995	AAC AAA GTC ATC GGA GAG TTT CTG 93 Asn Lys Val Ile Gly Glu Phe Leu 3000	27
	TCC AAC CAG CAG CCA TAC CCC CAG Ser Asn Gln Gln Pro Tyr Pro Gln 3005 3010		75
15	GTG TTT CAG ACT CTG CAC AGC ACC Val Phe Gln Thr Leu His Ser Thr 3025		23
20	TGG GTC ATG CTG TCC CTC TCC AAC Trp Val Met Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn 3040		71
	ATG GCC ACG TGG AGC CTC TCC TGC Met Ala Thr Trp Ser Leu Ser Cys 3055 3060		19
25	CCG TGG GTC GCG GCG ATC CTC CCA Pro Trp Val Ala Ala Ile Leu Pro 1 3070 3075		<b>57</b>
30	CTG GAG CAG GTG GAC GTG AAC CTT C Leu Glu Gln Val Asp Val Asn Leu 1 3085 3090		L 5
30	TAC AGA CAC CAG ATA GAG GAG GAG G Tyr Arg His Gln Ile Glu Glu I 3105	CTC GAC CGC AGG GCC TTC CAG TCT 966 Leu Asp Arg Arg Ala Phe Gln Ser 3110 3115	3
35	GTG CTT GAG GTG GTT GCA GCC CCA C Val Leu Glu Val Val Ala Ala Pro G 3120		.1
	ACT TGT TTA CGA AAT GTC CAC AAG C Thr Cys Leu Arg Asn Val His Lys V 3135 3140	FTC ACC ACC TGC T GAGCGCCATG 975 al Thr Thr Cys	8
40	GTGGGAGAGA CTGTGAGGCG GCAGCTGGGG	CCGGAGCCTT TGGAAGTCTG TGCCCTTGTG 981	8
	CCCTGCCTCC ACCGAGCCAG CTTGGTCCCT	ATGGGCTTCC GCACATGCCG CGGGCGGCCA 987	8
	GGCAACGTGC GTGTCTCTGC CATGTGGCAG		_
45	GAGTGTCTGC AGTCCTGGTG GGGCTGAGCC GCTGCACCCC ATGTGGGTGA CCAGGTCCTT	TGAGGCCTTC CAGAAAGCAG GAGCAGCTGT 999 TCTCCTGATA GTCACCTGCT GGTTGTTGCC 1005	
	AGGTTGCAGC TGCTCTTGCA TCTGGGCCAG		
	CCCCTCTGCT GTCCTGCAGT AGAAGGTGCC	GTGAGCAGGC TTTGGGAACA CTGGCCTGGG 1017	3
50	TCTCCCTGGT GGGGTGTGCA TGCCACGCCC	CGTGTCTGGA TGCACAGATG CCATGGCCTG 10238	3
	TGCTGGGCCA GTGGCTGGGG GTGCTAGACA	CCCGGCACCA TTCTCCCTTC TCTCTTTTCT 10298	3
EE	TCTCAGGATT TAAAATTTAA TTATATCAGT	AAAGAGATTA ATTTTAACGT AAAAAAAAAA 10358	3
55	ААААААА	10366	5

	[0151]
5	(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
10	<ul><li>(A) LENGTH: 3144 amino acids</li><li>(B) TYPE: amino acid</li><li>(D) TOPOLOGY: linear</li></ul>
	(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:
15	
00	
20	
25	
30	
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

		t Alá 1	Thr	. Leu	Gli	ı Ly:	s Let	ı Met	Ly	Ala 10		e Glu	ı Se:	r Le	u Ly:	s Ser
5	Phe	e Glr	ı Glr	Gln 20		ı Glı	n Glr	ı Glr	Glr 25		ı Glr	Glr	Gl:	n Glr 30		ı Gln
	Gli	a Glr	Gln 35		Glr	ı Glr	ı Glr	Glr 40		Pro	Pro	Pro	Pro 45	_	Pro	) Pro
10	Pro	Pro 50		Gln	Leu	Pro	Gln 55		Pro	Pro	Gln	Ala 60		Pro	Let	l Leu
	Pro 65		Pro	Gln	Pro	70		Pro	Pro	Pro	Pro 75		Pro	) Pro	Gly	Pro 80
15	Ala	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu 85		Leu	His	Arg	Pro 90	-	Lys	Glu	Leu	Ser 95	
	Thr	Lys	Lys	Asp 100	Arg	Val	Asn	His	Cys 105		Thr	Ile	Cys	Glu 110		Ile
20	Val	Ala	Gln 115	Ser	Val	Arg	Asn	Ser 120	Pro	Glu	Phe	Gln	Lys 125		Leu	Gly
	Ile	Ala 130	Met	Glu	Leu	Phe	Leu 135	Leu	Cys	Ser	Asp	Asp 140	Ala	Glu	Ser	Asp
25	Val 145	Arg	Met	Val	Ala	Asp 150	Glu	Cys	Leu	Asn	Lys 155	Val	Ile	Lys	Ala	Leu 160
20	Met	Asp	Ser	Asn	Leu 165	Pro	Arg	Leu	Gln	Leu 170	Glu	Leu	Tyr	Lys	Glu 175	Ile
	Lys	Lys	Asn	Gly 180	Ala	Pro	Arg	Ser	Leu 185	Arg	Ala	Ala	Leu	Trp 190	Arg	Phe
30	Ala	Glu	Leu 195	Ala	His	Leu	Val	Arg 200	Pro	Gln	Lys	Cys	Arg 205	Pro	Tyr	Leu
	Val	Asn 210	Leu	Leu	Pro	Cys	Leu 215	Thr	Arg	Thr	Ser	Lys 220	Arg	Pro	Glu	Glu
35	Ser 225	Val	Gln	Glu	Thr	Leu 230	Ala	Ala	Ala	Val	Pro 235	Lys	Ile	Met	Ala	Ser 240
	Phe	Gly	Asn		Ala 245	Asn	Asp	Asn	Glu	Ile 250	Lys	Val	Leu	Leu	Lys 255	Ala
40	Phe	Ile		Asn 260	Leu	Lys	Ser	Ser	Ser 265	Pro	Thr	Ile	Arg	Arg 270	Thr	Ala
	Ala	Gly	Ser . 275	Ala '	Val	Ser		Cys 280	Gln	His	Ser	Arg	Arg 285	Thr	Gln	Tyr
45	Phe	Tyr 290	Ser '	Trp 1	Leu		Asn 295	Val	Leu	Leu	,,	Leu 300	Leu	Val	Pro	Val
	Glu 305	Asp	Glu 1	His S		Thr 310	Leu	Leu	Ile		Gly 315	Val	Leu	Leu		Leu 320
50	Arg	Tyr :	ren ,		Pro :	Leu	Leu (	Gln		Gln 330	Val	Lys .	Asp		Ser 335	Leu
	Lys	Gly a	Ser 1	Phe (	Gly '	Val	Thr I	Arg	Lys	Glu :	Met	Glu '	Val	Ser	Pro	Ser

i		340	345	350
		ln Leu Val G 55	Gln Val Tyr Glu L 360	Leu Thr Leu His His Thr Gln 365
5	His Gln A	sp His Asn V	al Val Thr Gly A 375	Ala Leu Glu Leu Leu Gln Gln 380
	Leu Phe A: 385		Pro Pro Glu Leu L 90	eu Gln Thr Leu Thr Ala Val 395 400
10	Gly Gly I	le Gly Gln L 405		ys Glu Glu Ser Gly Gly Arg 10 415
	Ser Arg Se	er Gly Ser I 420	le Val Glu Leu I 425	le Ala Gly Gly Gly Ser Ser 430
15	Cys Ser Pr 43		er Arg Lys Gln Ly 440	ys Gly Lys Val Leu Leu Gly 445
	Glu Glu Gl 450	u Ala Leu G	lu Asp Asp Ser G 455	lu Ser Arg Ser Asp Val Ser 460
20	Ser Ser Al 465		la Ser Val Lys As 70	sp Glu Ile Ser Gly Glu Leu 475 480
	Ala Ala Se	r Ser Gly Va 485	al Ser Thr Pro Gl 49	ly Ser Ala Gly His Asp Ile 90 495
0.5	Ile Thr Gl	u Gln Pro Ar 500	rg Ser Gln His Th 505	hr Leu Gln Ala Asp Ser Leu 510
25	Asp Leu Al 51	. <del>-</del>	sp Leu Thr Ser Se 520	er Ala Thr Asp Gly Asp Glu 525
	Glu Asp Il 530	e Leu Ser Hi	is Ser Ser Ser Gl 535	In Val Ser Ala Val Pro Ser 540
30	Asp Pro Al	a Met Asp Le 55		or Gln Ala Ser Ser Pro Ile 555 560
	-	565	57	
35		580	585	sp Gly Thr Asp Asn Gln Tyr 590
	595	5	600	p Glu Asp Glu Glu Ala Thr
40	610	_	615	a Phe Arg Asn Ser Ser Met 620
	625	63	0	n Met Ser His Cys Arg Gln 635 640
45	•	645	650	
· ·		660	6 <b>6</b> 5	s Arg Ile Lys Gly Asp Ile 670  o Leu Val His Ser Val Arg
	675		680	685 y Gly Lys Asn Val Leu Val
50	690		695	700 s Ala Leu Ala Leu Ser Cys
	705	710	0	715 720 u Ser Phe Phe Ser Lys Leu
55	.ar vay naa	725	730	

	Ty	r Ly	s Va	1 Pro		ı Ası	) Thi	r Thi	749		r Pr	o Gl	u Gli	Gl: 750		r Val
5	Se	r Ası	755		ı Asn	Туг	r Ile	760		s Gly	/ As	p Pr	765	n Val	l Arg	g Gly
	Ala	a Thi 770		lle	Leu	Cys	Gly 775		Lev	ı Ile	Cys	5 Sei 780		≥ Leu	ı Sei	r Arg
10	Ser 785		g Phe	His	Val	Gly 790		Trp	Met	: Gly	799		a Arg	Thr	Leu	800
	Gly	/ Asn	Thr	Phe	Ser 805	Leu	Ala	Asp	Cys	810		Lev	Leu	Arg	815	Thr
15	Leu	Lys	Asp	Glu 820	Ser	Ser	Val	Thr	Cys 825		Leu	. Ala	Cys	Thr 830		. Val
	Arg	Asn	Cys 835	Val	Met	Ser	Leu	Суя 840	Ser	Ser	Ser	Туг	Ser 845		. Leu	Gly
20	Leu	Gln 850	Leu	Ile	Ile	Asp	Val 855		Thr	Leu	Arg	Asn 860	Ser	Ser	Tyr	Trp
20	Leu 865		Arg	Thr	Glu	Leu 870	Leu	Glu	Thr	Leu	Ala 875		Ile	Asp	Phe	Arg 880
	Leu	Val	Ser	Phe	Leu 885	Glu	Ala	Lys	Ala	Glu 890	Asn	Leu	His	Arg	Gly 895	
25	His	His	Tyr	Thr 900	Gly	Leu	Leu	Lys	Leu 905	Gln	Glu	Arg	Val	910 Ten	Asn	Asn
	Val	Val	Ile 915	His	Leu	Leu	Gly	Asp 920	Glu	Asp	Pro	Arg	Val 925	Arg	His	Val
30	Ala	Ala 930	Ala	Ser	Leu	Ile	Arg 935	Leu	Val	Pro	Lys	Leu 940	Phe	Tyr	Lys	Cys
	Asp 945	Gln	Gly	Gln	Ala	Asp 950	Pro	Val	Val	Ala	Val 955	Ala	Arg	Asp	Gln	<b>Ser</b> 960
35	Ser	Val	Tyr	Leu	<b>Lув</b> 965	Leu	Leu	Met	His	Glu 970	Thr	Gln	Pro	Pro	Ser 975	His
	Phe	Ser	Val	Ser 980	Thr	Ile	Thr	Arg	Ile 985	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Asn 990	Leu	Leu
	Pro	Ser	Ile 995	Thr .	Asp	Val	Thr	Met 1000		Asn	Asn	Leu	Ser 1005		Val	Ile
40		1010					1015	i				1020	)			
	Phe 1025	Gly	Сув	Сув	Glu :	Ala 1030	Leu	Cys	Leu	Leu	Ser 1035	Thr	Ala	Phe	Pro	Val 1040
45	Cys	Ile	Trp		Leu ( 1045	Gly	Trp	His	Cys	Gly 1050		Pro	Pro		Ser 1055	
	Ser	Asp	Glu	Ser 1 1060		Lys	Ser		Thr 1065		Gly	Met	Ala	Thr 1070		Ile
50	Leu		Leu 1075	Leu S	Ser S	Ser .		Trp 1080		Pro	Leu	Asp	Leu 1085		Ala	His
		Asp 1090	Ala 1	Leu :	Ile I		Ala 1095		Asn	Leu		Ala 1100		Ser .	Ala	Pro
55	Lys 1105		Leu /	Arg S		Ser '	Trp /	Ala :	Ser		Glu 1115		Ala .	Asn		Ala 1120

	Ala	a Thr	Lys	Gln	Glu 112		u Va	l Tr	p Pr	o Al		u Gl	y As	p Ar		a Leu 35
5	Val	l Pro	Met	Val 114	Glu 0	Glr	ı Le	u Ph	e Se 11		E Le	l Le	u Ly	s Va 11		e Asn
	Ile	: Cys	Ala 1155		Val	Leu	ı Ası	As <sub>1</sub>		l Ala	a Pro	Gl.	y Pro		a Il	e Lys
10	Ala	Ala 1170		Pro	Ser	Leu	Th:		n Pro	o Pro	Ser	111		e Pro	) Il	e Arg
	Arg 118		Gly	Lys	Glu	Lys 119		Pro	G13	y Glu	Gln 119		s Ser	· Val	. Pr	Deu 1200
15	Ser	Pro	Lys	Lys	Gly 1205		Glu	Ala	Sez	Ala 121		Ser	Arg	Glm	Se:	_
	Thr	Ser		Pro 1 <b>22</b> 0		Thr	Thr	Ser	Lys 122		Ser	Ser	: Leu	Gly 123		r Phe
20	Tyr	His	Leu 1235		Ser	Tyr	Leu	Arg 124		His	Asp	Val	Leu 124		Ala	Thr
		Ala . 1250					125	5				126	0			-
25	1269					1270	)				1279	5				1280
20		Leu i		1	1285					1290	)				129	5
		Tyr I	1	.300					130	5				1310	)	
30 .			315					1320	)				1325	}		
		Phe A 1330					1335	•				1340	)		·	
35	1345				1	1350					1355					1360
		Met A		1	365					1370				_	1375	š
40		Arg A Asp V	1	380					1385					1390		
		Asp v 1 Val T	395					1400					1405			
45		1410				]	1415				:	1420				
45	Arg 1 1425	Leu Pl	ne Gl	Lu Pi		eu V 430	/al	Ile :	Lys .		Leu 1 1435	ъys	Gln '	Tyr :		Thr 1440
	Thr T	Thr Cy	/S Va		ln L 145	eu G	ln l	Lys (		Val I 1450	Leu A	de.	Leu 1		Ala 1455	
50	Leu V	al Gl		tu Ar 60	g V	al A	sn S		Cys 1 1465	Leu I	eu A	rab (		Asp 6	3ln	Val
	Phe I		y Ph 75	ie Va	l L	eu L		31n E 480	he (	3lu T	yr I		31u V 1485	al G	ly (	Gln
55	Phe A	rg Gl 490	u Se	r Gl	u A	la I 1	le 1 495	le F	ro A	Asn I		he 1	Phe F	he L	eu 1	Val

	Leu Leu Ser Tyr Glu Arg Tyr His Ser Lys Gln Ile Ile Gly Ile Pro 1505 1510 1515 1520
5	Lys Ile Ile Gln Leu Cys Asp Gly Ile Met Ala Ser Gly Arg Lys Ala 1525 1530 1535
	Val Thr His Ala Ile Pro Ala Leu Gln Pro Ile Val His Asp Leu Phe 1540 1545 1550
10	Val Leu Arg Gly Thr Asn Lys Ala Asp Ala Gly Lys Glu Leu Glu Thr 1555 1560 1565
	Gln Lys Glu Val Val Val Ser Met Leu Leu Arg Leu Ile Gln Tyr His 1570 1575 1580
15	Gln Val Leu Glu Met Phe Ile Leu Val Leu Gln Gln Cys His Lys Glu 1585 1590 1595 1600
	Asn Glu Asp Lys Trp Lys Arg Leu Ser Arg Gln Ile Ala Asp Ile Ile 1605 1610 1615
20	Leu Pro Met Leu Ala Lys Gln Gln Met His Ile Asp Ser His Glu Ala 1620 1625 1630
	Leu Gly Val Leu Asn Thr Leu Phe Glu Ile Leu Ala Pro Ser Ser Leu 1635 1640 1645
0.5	Arg Pro Val Asp Met Leu Leu Arg Ser Met Phe Val Thr Pro Asn Thr 1650 1655 1660
25	Met Ala Ser Val Ser Thr Val Gln Leu Trp Ile Ser Gly Ile Leu Ala 1665 1670 1675 1680
	Ile Leu Arg Val Leu Ile Ser Gln Ser Thr Glu Asp Ile Val Leu Ser 1685 1690 1695
30	Arg Ile Gln Glu Leu Ser Phe Ser Pro Tyr Leu Ile Ser Cys Thr Val 1700 1705 1710
	Ile Asn Arg Leu Arg Asp Gly Asp Ser Thr Ser Thr Leu Glu Glu His 1715 1720 1725
35	Ser Glu Gly Lys Gln Ile Lys Asn Leu Pro Glu Glu Thr Phe Ser Arg 1730 1740
	Phe Leu Leu Gln Leu Val Gly Ile Leu Leu Glu Asp Ile Val Thr Lys 1745 1750 1755 1760
40	Gln Leu Lys Val Glu Met Ser Glu Gln Gln His Thr Phe Tyr Cys Gln 1765 1770 1775
	Glu Leu Gly Thr Leu Leu Met Cys Leu Ile His Ile Phe Lys Ser Gly 1780 1785 1790
	Met Phe Arg Arg Ile Thr Ala Ala Ala Thr Arg Leu Phe Arg Ser Asp 1795 1800 1805
45	Gly Cys Gly Gly Ser Phe Tyr Thr Leu Asp Ser Leu Asn Leu Arg Ala 1810 1815 1820
	Arg Ser Met Ile Thr Thr His Pro Ala Leu Val Leu Leu Trp Cys Gln 1825 1830 1835 1840
50	Tie Leu Leu Val Asn His Thr Asp Tyr Arg Trp Trp Ala Glu Val 1845 1850 1855
	Gln Gln Thr Pro Lys Arg His Ser Leu Ser Ser Thr Lys Leu Leu Ser 1860 1865 1870
55	Pro Gln Met Ser Gly Glu Glu Glu Asp Ser Asp Leu Ala Ala Lys Leu 1875 1880 1885

	Gl		t Cy 90	s As	n Ar	g Gl	18 18		l Ar	g Ar	g Gl	y Al 19		u Ile	e Le	u Phe
5	Cy:		р Ту	r Va	l Cy	s Gl:		n Lei	u His	s Ası	9 Ser 19:		u Hi	9 Let	ı Th	r Trp 192
	Let	u Il	e Va	l Ası	n His		e Gli	n Ası	p Lev	1 Ile 191		r Lei	ı Se:	r His	5 Glv 191	u Pro 35
10	Pro	o Vai	l Gl	n Ası 194		e Ile	e Ser	r Ala	194		arg	) Ası	ı Ser	195		a Ser
	Gly	y Let	1 Pho 19		e Glr	n Ala	a Ile	9 Glr 196		Arg	Cys	Glu	1 Asr 196		Ser	Thr
15	Pro	7h: 197		t Leu	ı Lys	. Lýs	Th:		2 Gln	Cys	Leu	Glu 198		Ile	His	Leu
	Ser 198		ı Sei	r Gly	/ Ala	val 199		Thr	Leu	Tyr	Val 199		Arç	Leu	Leu	сув 2001
20	Thr	Pro	Phe	Arg	7 Val 200		ı Ala	Arg	Met	Val 201		Ile	Leu	Ala	Cys 201	Arg 5
20	Arg	y Val	. Glu	Met 202		Leu	Ala	Ala	Asn 202		Gln	Ser	Ser	Met 203		Gln
	Leu	Pro	Met 203		Glu	. Leu	Asn	Arg 204		Gln	Glu	Туг	Leu 204		Ser	Ser
25	Gly	Leu 205		Gln	Arg	His	Gln 205		Leu	Tyr	Ser	Leu 206		Asp	Arg	Phe
	Arg 206		Ser	Thr	Met	Gln 207		Ser	Leu	Ser	Pro 207		Pro	Pro	Val	Ser 2080
30	Ser	His	Pro	Leu	Asp 208		Asp	Gly	His	Val 2090		Leu	Glu	Thr	Val 209	
	Pro	Asp	Lys	Asp 210		Tyr	Val	His	Leu 210		Lys	Ser	Gln	Cys 2110		Thr
35	Arg	Ser	Asp 211	Ser 5	Ala	Leu	Leu	Glu 2120		Ala	Glu	Leu	Val 212		Arg	Ile
	Pro	Ala 2130		Asp	Met	Asn	Ala 2139		Met	Met	Asn	Ser 2140		Phe	Asn	Гел
	Ser 2149		Leu	Ala	Pro	Cys 2150		Ser	Leu	Gly	Met 2155		Glu	Ile	Ser	Gly 2160
40	Gly	Gln	ГÀЗ	Ser	Ala 2165		Phe	Glu	Ala	Ala 2170		Glu	Val	Thr	Leu 2175	
	Arg	Val		Gly 2180												Phe
45	Gln	Pro	Glu 2199	Leu 5	Pro	Ala	Glu	Pro 2200		Ala	Tyr	Trp	Ser 2205		Leu	Asn
	Asp	Leu 2210		Gly	Asp		Ala 2215		Tyr	Gln		Leu 2220		Thr	Leu	Ala
50	Arg 2225		Leu	Ala		Tyr 2230		Val	Val		ser 2235		Leu	Pro		His 2240
	Leu	His	Leu	Pro	Pro 2245		Lys	Glu		Asp 2250	Ile '	Val	Lys		Val 2255	
ςς.	Ala	Thr	Leu	Glu 2260		Leu	Ser		His : 2265	Leu	Ile 1	His		Gln 2270	Ile	Pro

	Let	u Se	r Lei	-	Lei	ı Glı	n Ala	a Gl:		u Ası	Су:	s Cy	s Cy:		ı Ala	a Leu
5	Glr	1 Let 229		o Gly	r Lev	Tr	Ser 22!		l Val	l Ser	: Se:	23		ı Phe	· Va]	l Thr
	His 230		а Суя	s Ser	Leu	11e 231		Cys	s Val	l His	Phe 231		e Lei	ı Glu	Ala	Val 2320
10	Ala	val	. Glr	Pro	Gly 232		Glr	Lev	ı Lev	Ser 233		Gli	ı Arg	) Arg	Thr 233	Asn 5
	Thr	Pro	Lys	Ala 234		Ser	Glu	Glu	Glu 234		Glu	ı Val	l Asp	Pro 235		Thr
15	Gln	Asn	Pro 235	Lys 5	Tyr	Ile	Thr	Ala 236		Cys	Glu	Met	Val 236		Glu	Met
	Val	Glu 237		Leu	Gln	Ser	Val 237		Ala	Leu	Gly	His 238		Arg	Asn	Ser
20	Gly 238		Pro	Ala	Phe	Leu 239		Pro	Leu	Leu	Arg 239		Ile	Ile	Ile	Ser 2400
	Leu	Ala	Arg	Leu	Pro 2409		Val	Asn	Ser	Tyr 241		Arg	Val	Pro	Pro 241	
25	Val	Trp	Lys	Leu 2420		Trp	Ser	Pro	Lys 242		Gly	Gly	Asp	Phe 2430		Thr
25	Ala	Phe	Pro 2435	Glu 5	Ile	Pro	Val	Glu 244		Leu	Gln	Glu	Lys 244		Val	Phe
*	Lys	Glu 2450		Ile	Tyr	Arg	Ile 245		Thr	Leu	Gly	Trp 246		Ser	Arg	Thr
30	Gln 2465		Glu	Glu	Thr	Trp 2470		Thr	Leu	Leu	Gly 247		Leu	Val	Thr	Gln 2480
	Pro	Leu	Val	Met	Glu 2485		Glu	Glu	Ser	Pro 2490		Glu	Glu	-	Thr 2495	
35	Arg	Thr	Gln	Ile 2500		Val	Leu	Ala	Val 2505		Ala	Ile	Thr	Ser 2510		Val
	Leu		Ala 2515		Thr	Val	Pro	Val 2520		Gly	Asn	Pro	Ala 2525		Ser	Cys
40	Leu	Glu 2530		Gln :	Pro .		Asn 2535		Pro	Leu	Lys	Ala 2540		Asp	Thr	Arg
	Phe 2545		Arg	Lys 1		Ser 2550	Ile	Ile	Arg		Ile 2555		Glu	Gln		Ile 2560
	Gln :	Ala	Met '		Ser 1 2565	Lys .	Arg	Glu		Ile . 2570	Ala	Thr	His		Leu 2575	Tyr
45	Gln i	Ala '		Asp   2580	Pro V	/al	Pro		Leu 2585		Pro	Ala		Thr ( 2590	Gly i	Ala
	Leu :		Ser 1 2595	His C	3lu I	Lys :		Leu 2600	Leu (	Gln :	Ile .		Pro 2605	Glu /	Arg (	3lu
50	Leu (	Gly 8 2610	Ser N	Met S	Ser 1		Lys 2615	Leu '	Gly (	Gln '		5er 2620	Ile 1	His S	er v	/al
	Trp I 2625	Leu (	3ly A	Asn S		le :	Thr 1	Pro :	Leu l		31u ( 2635	Glu	Glu 1	Frp A		31u 2640
55	Glu G	3lu (	ilu (		lu A 645	la /	/sp /	Ala 1		Ala 1 2650	Pro S	Ser :	Ser I		ro 1 655	Thr

	Sei	r Pr	o Va	l Ası 266		r Arg	J Lys	s His	266		a Gly	Va:	l Asy	p Il 26		s Ser	
5	Cys	Se:	c Gl: 26		e Lev	ı Let	ı Glı	1 Lei 268		Se:	Arg	Tr	268		u Pr	o Ser	
	Ser	Se:		a Arg	, Arg	J Thr	Pro 269		Ile	: Leu	ılle	Ser 270		ı Va	l Va	l Arg	
10	Ser 270		ı Leı	ı Val	. Val	Ser 271		) Leu	Phe	Thr	Glu 271		Asn	Glr	ı Phe	2720	
	Leu	Met	Туг	. Val	Thr 272		Thr	Glu	Leu	Arg 273		Val	His	Pro	Ser 273	Glu 15	
15	Asp	Glu	Ile	Leu 274		Gln	Tyr	Leu	Val 274		Ala	Thr	Суѕ	Lys 275		Ala	
	Ala	Val	Leu 275		Met	Asp	Lys	Ala 276		Ala	Glu	Pro	Val 276		Arg	Leu	
20	Leu	Glu 277		Thr	Leu	Arg	Ser 277		His	Leu	Pro	Ser 278		Va 1	Gly	Ala	
	Leu 2785		Gly	Ile	Leu	Tyr 279		Leu	Glu	Cys	Asp 2795		Leu	Asp	Asp	Thr 2800	
•	Ala	Lys	Gln	Leu	11e 280		Val	Ile	Ser	Asp 281		Leu	Leu	Ser	Asn 281	Leu 5	
25	Lys	Gly	Ile	Ala 2820		Cys	Val	Asn	Ile 2825		Ser	Gln	Gln	His 283	_	Leu	
	Val	Met	Cys 283	Ala 5	Thr	Ala	Phe	Tyr 2840		Ile	Glu	Asn	Tyr 2845		Leu	Asp	
30		Gly 2850		Glu	Phe	Ser	Ala 2855		Ile	Ile		Met 2860		Gly	Val	Met	
	Leu 2865		Gly	Ser		Glu 2870		Thr	Pro	Ser	Ile 2875		Туғ	His	-	Ala .2880	
35	Leu	Arg	Gly		Glu 2885		Гел	Leu		Ser 2890		Gln	Leu	Ser	Arg 2899		
•	Asp .	Ala	Glu	Ser 2900		Val	Lys		Ser 2905		Asp /	Arg		Asn 2910		His	
	Ser		His 2915		Ala	Met .		Ala 2920		Gly	Leu !		Leu 2925		Cys	Met	
40	Tyr	Thr 2930		Lys	Glu :		Val 2935		Pro	Gly	-	Chr 2940	Ser	qaA	Pro	Asn	
	Pro 2 2945										Val / 2955				Arg	Val 2960	
45	Ser V	<b>Jal</b>	Leu		Asp 2 2965	Arg :	Ile	Arg 1		Gly 2970	Phe I	Pro	Cys		Ala 2975		
	Val \	/al .		Arg : 2980	[le	Leu I	Pro (		Phe I 2985	Leu i	Asp A	sp 1		Phe 2990		Pro	
50	Gln A		Ile 1 2995	Met 1	Asn I	Lys \		Ile (	3ly (	3lu I	Phe L		Ser 1 3005	Asn (	Gln	Gln	
	Pro 1	yr 1	Pro (	Gln E	he N		la :	Thr V	/al \	/al :		ys \ 020	/al I	Phe (	Gln	Thr	
	Leu H 3025	is S	Ser :	Thr G		31n S 3030	Ser S	Ser N	det V		Arg A 3035	ge.	Trp (	/al !		Leu 3040	

	Ser	Leu	Ser	Asn	9he 304		GIn	Arg	Ala	305		Ala	Met	Ala	3055	
5	Ser	Leu	Ser	Cys 3060		Phe	Val	Ser	Ala 3069		Thr	Ser	Pro	Trp 3070		Ala
	Ala	Ile	Leu 3079		His	Val	Ile	Ser 3080		Met	Gly	Lys	Leu 3085		Gln	Val
10	Asp	Val 3090		Leu	Phe	Cys	Leu 3095		Ala	Thr	Asp	Phe 3100		Arg	His	Gln
	11e 3105	Glu	Glu	Glu	Leu	Asp 3110		Arg	Ala	Phe	Gln 3115		Val	Leu	Glu	Val 3120
15	Val	Ala	Ala		Gly 3125		Pro	Tyr		Arg 3130		Leu	Thr	,-	Leu 3135	-
	Asn	Val		Lys 3140		Thr	Thr	Cys			•					
20																

#### Claims

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- An isolated, purified or recombinant huntingtin polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:6.
  - 2. An isolated, purified or recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a huntingtin nucleic acid molecule encoding a huntingtin polypeptide according to claim 1, or its complementary strand.
- 35 3. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising the nucleic acid shown in SEQ ID NO:5.
  - **4.** A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2 or claim 3, comprising a transcriptional control region operably linked to said huntingtin nucleic acid molecule.
- 40 5. A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to any of claims 2 to 4.
  - **6.** A vector according to claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to transcriptional and/or translational expression signals.
- **7.** A host cell transformed or transfected with a vector according to claim 5 or claim 6.
  - 8. An antibody specific for huntingtin polypeptide as claimed in claim 1.
  - 9. A hybridoma which produces an antibody according to claim 8.
  - **10.** A method of detecting the presence of, or predisposition to develop, Huntington's disease in a subject, the method comprising
    - (a) evaluating the characteristics of huntingtin nucleic acid in a sample from the subject, wherein the evaluation comprises detecting the huntingtin (CAG)<sub>n</sub> region shown in SEQ ID NO:5 in the sample; and (b) comparing the characteristics found in (a) with a similar analysis from an individual with no family history of Huntington's disease, where the nucleic acid has from 11 to 34 (CAG) repeats, the presence of, or predisposition to develop, Huntington's disease being indicated if those characteristics in the huntingtin (CAG)<sub>n</sub>

region differ.

- 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the characteristics of huntingtin nucleic acid are evaluated by Southern blot, northern blot, or polymerase chain reaction analysis.
- 12. The use of:

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- (a) a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, 3 or 4 or a vector according to claim 5 or claim 6;
- (b) a polypeptide according to claim 1; and/or
- (c) a host cell according to claim 7

in the preparation of a medicament.

- **13.** The use according to claim 12, wherein the medicament is for treating, delaying or preventing a neurodegenerative disorder.
  - 14. The use according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the medicament is for gene therapy.
- **15.** The use according to claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein the medicament is for treating, preventing or delaying Hunting-don's disease.
  - **16.** The use according to any of claims 12 to 15 wherein the nucleic acid has from 11 to 34 (CAG) repeats and/or the polypeptide has from 11 to 34 Gln repeats, said repeats being consecutive.
- 25 17. A diagnostic and/or immunoassay kit comprising at least one container and;
  - (a) a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, 3 or 4, optionally labelled; or
  - (b) an antibody according to claim 8, optionally labelled.
- 30 **18.** A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
  - (a) a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, 3 or 4 or a vector according to claim 5 or claim 6;
  - (b) a polypeptide according to claim 1; and/or
  - (c) a host cell according to claim 7

in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

**19.** A process for the preparation of a polypeptide according to claim 1, the process comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 7 under conditions whereby the polypeptide is expressed, and purifying or isolating the polypeptide.

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#### Patentansprüche

- Isoliertes, gereinigtes oder rekombiniertes Huntingtin-Polypeptid, das die unter SEQ ID NO:6 wiedergegebene Aminosäuresequenz enthält.
- Isoliertes, gereinigtes oder rekombiniertes Nucleinsäuremolekül, das ein Huntingtin-Nucleinsäuremolekül enthält, das ein Huntingtin-Polypeptid gemäß Anspruch 1 oder seinen Zusatzstrang codiert.
- 3. Nucleinsäuremolekül gemäß Anspruch 2, das die unter SEQ ID NO:5 wiedergegebene Nucleinsäure enthält.
  - Nucleinsäuremolekül gemäß Anspruch 2 oder 3, das einen Transkriptionskontrollbereich aufweist, der operativ mit dem Huntingtin-Nucleinsäuremolekül verbunden ist.
- 55 5. Vektor, der ein Nucleinsäuremolekül gemäß einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 4 aufweist.
  - 6. Vektor gemäß Anspruch 5, wobei das Nucleinsäuremolekül operativ mit Transkriptions- und/oder Translationsausdruckssignalen verbunden ist.

- 7. Wirtszelle, die mit einem Vektor gemäß Anspruch 5 oder Anspruch 6 transformiert oder transfektiert wird.
- Antikörper, der für das Huntingtin-Polypeptid gemäß Anspruch 1 spezifisch ist.
- 9. Hybridoma, das einen Antikörper gemäß Anspruch 8 erzeugt.
  - 10. Verfahren zum Erfassen der Gegenwart der Huntington-Erkrankung oder der Neigung zur Entwicklung der Huntington-Erkrankung in einer Person, wobei das Verfahren Folgendes beinhaltet:
    - (a) Evaluierung der Charakteristika der Huntingtin-Nucleinsäure in einer der Person entnommenen Probe, wobei die Evaluierung das Erfassen des unter SEQ ID NO:5 dargestellten Huntingtin (CAG)-Bereichs in der Probe einschließt, und
    - (b) Vergleichen der in (a) festgestellten Charakteristika mit einer ähnlichen Analyse, die bei einer Person durchgeführt wurde, in deren Familie keine Huntington-Erkrankung vorliegt und bei der die Nucleinsäure 11 bis 34 (CAG) Wiederholungen aufweist, wobei die Gegenwart der Huntington-Erkrankung oder die Neigung zur Entwicklung der Huntington-Erkrankung angezeigt wird, wenn sich diese Charakteristika im Huntingtin (CAG)-Bereich unterscheiden.
- 11. Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 10, wobei die Charakteristika der Huntingtin-Nucleinsäure durch Southern-Blot-Ana-20 lyse, Northern-Blot-Analyse oder eine Polymerase-Kettenreaktionsanalyse evaluiert werden.
  - 12. Verwendung

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- (a) eines Nucleinsäuremoleküls gemäß Anspruch 2, 3 oder 4 oder eines Vektors gemäß Anspruch 5 oder Anspruch 6;
- (b) eines Polypeptids gemäß Anspruch 1 und/oder
- (c) einer Wirtszelle gemäß Anspruch 7

bei der Herstellung eines Medikaments.

- 13. Verwendung gemäß Anspruch 12, wobei das Medikament zur Behandlung, Verzögerung oder Vermeidung einer neurodegenerativen Erkrankung eingesetzt wird.
- 14. Verwendung gemäß Anspruch 12 oder Anspruch 13, wobei das Medikament für eine Gentherapie eingesetzt wird.
- 15. Verwendung gemäß Anspruch 12, 13 oder 14, wobei das Medikament zur Behandlung, Vermeidung oder Verzögerung der Huntington-Erkrankung dient.
- 16. Verwendung gemäß einem der Ansprüche 12 bis 15, wobei die Nucleinsäure 11 bis 34 (CAG) Wiederholungen 40 aufweist und/oder das Polypeptid 11 bis 34 Gln-Wiederholungen aufweist, wobei die Wiederholungen aufeinander folgen.
  - 17. Diagnostische und/oder Immunoassay-Ausrüstung, die mindestens einen Behälter und
    - (a) ein, gegebenenfalls markiertes, Nucleinsäuremolekül gemäß Anspruch 2, 3 oder 4 oder
    - (b) einen gegebenenfalls markierten Antikörper gemäß Anspruch 8 enthält.
  - 18. Pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung, die Folgendes enthält:
    - (a) ein Nucleinsäuremolekül gemäß Anspruch 2, 3 oder 4 oder einen Vektor gemäß Anspruch 5 oder Anspruch
    - (b) ein Polypeptid gemäß Anspruch 1 und/oder
    - (c) eine Wirtszelle gemäß Anspruch 7
    - in einer Mischung mit einem pharmazeutisch akzeptablen Träger.
  - 19. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines Polypeptids gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei das Verfahren das Kultivieren einer Wirtszelle gemäß Anspruch 7 unter Bedingungen, bei denen das Polypeptid exprimiert wird, und das Reinigen oder

Isolieren des Polypeptids aufweist.

#### Revendications

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- Polypeptide huntingtin isolé, purifié ou recombinant comprenant la séquence d'acides aminés présentée dans SEQ ID n° 6.
- 2. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolé, purifié ou recombinant comprenant une molécule d'acide nucléique huntingtin codant pour un polypeptide huntingtin suivant la revendication 1 ou son brin complémentaire.
  - 3. Molécule d'acide nucléique suivant la revendication 2, comprenant l'acide nucléique présenté dans SEQ ID n° 5.
- 4. Molécule d'acide nucléique suivant la revendication 2 ou la revendication 3, comprenant une région de contrôle
   de transcription liée de manière fonctionnelle à ladite molécule d'acide nucléique huntingtin.
  - 5. Vecteur comprenant une molécule d'acide nucléique suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 4.
- Vecteur suivant la revendication 5, dans lequel la molécule d'acide nucléique est liée de manière fonctionnelle à des signaux d'expression de transcription et/ou de traduction.
  - 7. Cellule hôte transformée ou transfectée avec un vecteur suivant la revendication 5 ou la revendication 6.
  - 8. Anticorps spécifique pour un polypeptide huntingtin suivant la revendication 1.

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- 9. Hybridome qui produit un anticorps suivant la revendication 8.
- 10. Procédé de détection de la présence de la maladie de Huntington ou d'une prédisposition à la développer chez un sujet, le procédé comprenant

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- (a) l'évaluation des caractéristiques de l'acide nucléique huntingtin dans un échantillon du sujet, dans lequel l'évaluation comprend une détection de la région huntingtin (CAG)<sub>a</sub> présentée dans SEQ ID n° 5 dans l'échantillon; et
- (b) la comparaison des caractéristiques trouvées en (a) avec une analyse similaire provenant d'un individu sans antécédents familiaux de maladie de Huntington, où l'acide nucléique présente de 11 à 34 répétitions (CAG), la présence de la maladie de Huntington, ou une prédisposition à la développer, étant indiquée si ces caractéristiques dans la région huntingtin (CAG)<sub>n</sub> diffèrent.
- 11. Procédé suivant la revendication 10, dans lequel les caractéristiques de l'acide nucléique huntingtin sont évaluées par buvardage de Southern, buvardage de Northern, ou une analyse par réaction de polymérase en chaîne.

#### 12. Utilisation:

- (a) d'une molécule d'acide nucléique suivant la revendication 2, 3 ou 4 ou d'un vecteur suivant la revendication 5 ou la revendication 6;
- (b) d'un polypeptide suivant la revendication 1; et/ou
- (c) d'une cellule hôte suivant la revendication 7 dans la préparation d'un médicament.
- 13. Utilisation suivant la revendication 12, dans laquelle le médicament est destiné à traiter, à retarder ou à empêcher un trouble neurodégénératif.
  - **14.** Utilisation suivant la revendication 12 ou la revendication 13, dans laquelle le médicament a pour but une thérapie génique.
- 55 15. Utilisation suivant la revendication 12, 13 ou 14, dans laquelle le médicament est destiné à traiter, empêcher ou retarder la maladie d'Huntington.
  - 16. Utilisation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 12 à 15, dans laquelle l'acide nucléique présente de 11 à

34 répétitions (CAG) et/ou le polypeptide présente de 11 à 34 répétitions Gln, les dites répétitions étant successives.

- 17. Trousse pour diagnostic et/ou essais immunologiques comprenant au moins un récipient et;
  - (a) une molécule d'acide nucléique suivant la revendication 2, 3 ou 4, facultativement marquée ; ou
  - (b) un anticorps suivant la revendication 8, facultativement marqué.
- 18. Composition pharmaceutique contenant :

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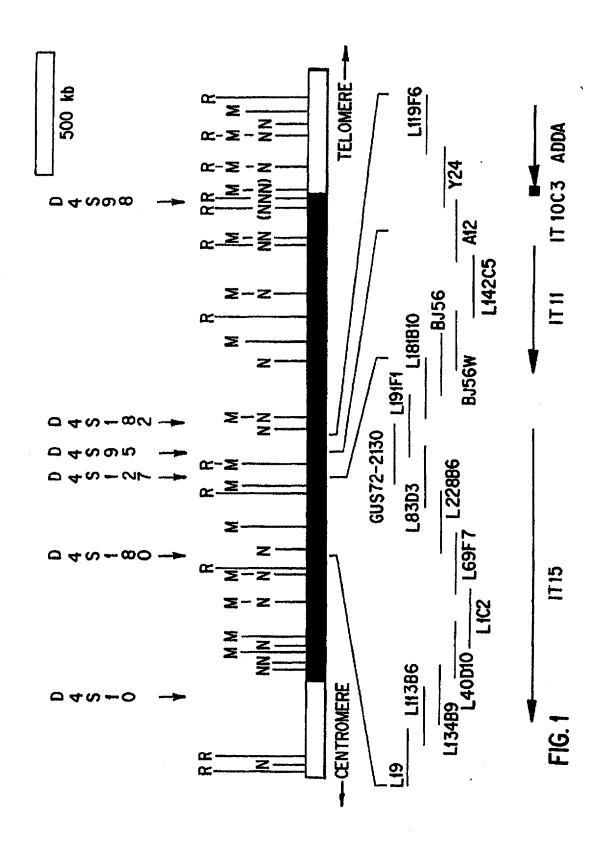
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- (a) une molécule d'acide nucléique suivant la revendication 2, 3 ou 4 ou un vecteur suivant la revendication 5 ou la revendication 6.
- (b) un polypeptide suivant la revendication 1; et/ou
- (c) une cellule hôte suivant la revendication 7
- en mélange avec un excipient pharmaceutiquement acceptable.
  - 19. Procédé de préparation d'un polypeptide suivant la revendication 1, le procédé comprenant la culture d'une cellule hôte suivant la revendication 7 dans des conditions par lesquelles le polypeptide est exprimé, et la purification ou l'isolement du polypeptide.

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1 2 3

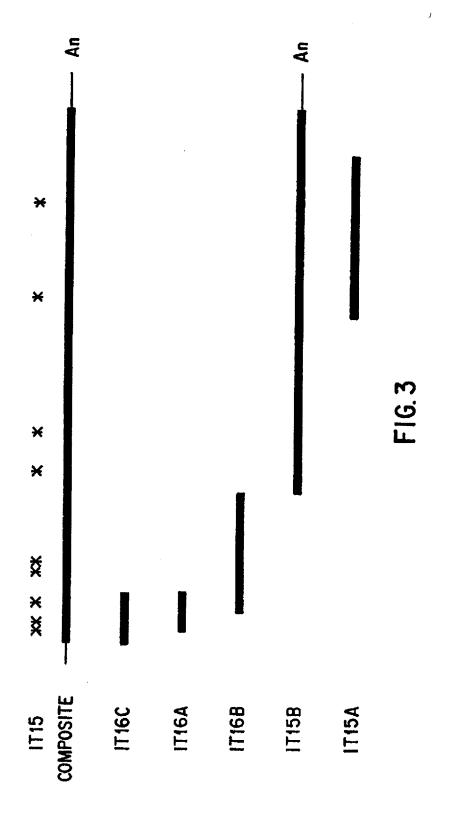


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FIG. 2



TTGCTGT(	GTG AGGO	CAGAACC	TGCGGGGG	CA GGGGO	GGCCT GG	TTCCCTGG	CCAGCCATTG	60
GCAGAGTO	CCG CAGO	CTAGGG	CTGTCAAT	CA TGCTG	GCCCG CG	TGGCCCCG	CCTCCGCCGG	120
CGCGGCCC	CCG CCTC	CCCCCC	CGGACGTC	TG GGACG	CAAGG CG	CCGTGGGG	GCTGCCGGGA	180
CGGGTCCA	VAG ATGG	ACGGCC (	GCTCAGGT	IC TGCTT	TTACC TGG	CGGCCCAG	AGCCCCATTC	240
ATTGCCCC	GG TGCT	GAGCGG (	CCCCCCAC	ST CGGCCC	GAGG CC1	CCCGCGA (	CTGCCGTGCC	300
GGCCGGGA	GA CCGC						C TTC GAG o Phe Glu	351
				Gin Gin		CAG CAG Gln Gln 25		399
						COG CCA Pro Pro		.447
			Pro Gin			CCG CCG Pro Pro		495
CAG CCG ( Gin Pro t					Pro Pro			543
CCA CCC ( Pro Pro (								591
GAA CTT 1 Glu Leu S								639
TGT GAA A Cys Glu A 110								687

# FIG.4A

	Leu			Met			Leu			GAC Asp 140	735
									AAA Lys 155		783
									GAG Glu		831
									GCT Ala		879
									AAA Lys		927
									AGC Ser		975
									CCC Pro 235		1023
ATT He		-							AAG Lys		1071
TTG Leu									ACC Thr		1119
CGG Arg			Gly								1167

FIG.4B

	Thr			Ser			Vol		TTA Leu 300	1215
	GTT Val		Asp			Leu				1263
	CTC Leu	 								1311
	ACA Thr	 Leu								1359
-	TCT Ser 350									1407
	CAT His									1455
	TTG Leu									1503
	ACC Thr									1551
	GGT G1y									1599
	GGT Gly 430									1647

FIG.4C

Leu	GGA Gly			Glu			Asp		AGA Arg 460	1695
 -	 AGC Ser		Ser			Ser				1743
	CTG Leu 480									1791
 -	 ATC He	_								1839
	CTG Leu									1887
	GAG GIu									1935
	TCT Ser									1983
	ATC 11e 560									2031
	ACC Thr			Asp					 	2079
	TAT Tyr		Gly			Gln				2127

FIG.4D

	Glu						Ser		AGG Arg 620		2175
			 Leu	CAA Gin	-	-			•	,	2223
				GAC Asp						;	2271
	_			GGT Gly						4	2319
				TCC Ser 675						2	2367
				TCT Ser						2	2415
				AGG Arg						2	1463
GCC Alo				GCA Ala					-	2	511
				GTT Val						2	559

FIG.4E

	Туг	GTC Val						His		CCA Pro	2607
 Vol		GGA Gly		Ala							2655
		AGG Arg									2703
		ACA Thr 800									2751
		ACA Thr									2799
 -		GTG Val									2847
 		GGA Gly	-	 				-			2895
 		TGG Trp			-		-				2943
		AGG Arg 880									2991
		GCT Ala		Tyr							3039

FIG.4F

			GTC Val									AGG Arg	3087
			GCA A1 o 930										3135
			CAA GIn										3183
			GTT Val										3231
 	 		TCC Ser										3279
			AGC Ser						Glu				3327
Arg			GCA Al o 1010	Val				lle					3375
			GGA Gly				Leu					Thr	3423
		Cys	ATT He			Gly					Val		3471
 -	 Ala	_	GAT Asp		Arg					Val			3519

FIG.4G

		Mel					Leu								GAT Asp	3567	7
	Ser					Alo					Gly				GCA Ala 1100	3615	j
					Ser					Trp		TCT Ser				3663	j
				Alo					Glu			CCA Pro		Leu		3711	
			Leu					Glu				TCT Ser 114	His			3759	,
Lys		lle					His					GTG Val O				3807	
	Ala					Leu					Asn	CCC Pro				3855	
					Lys					Glu		GGA Gly			Ala	3903	
				Ser					Ser			AGT Ser		Ala		3951	
Arg I	GIn	Ser	Asp	Thr	Ser	Gly	Pro	Val	Thr	Thr	Ser	AAA Lys	Ser			3999	

# FIG.4H

	Ser		TAT Tyr			Рго					Leu			GTC Val	4047
Lys					Asn					Leu				AAC Asn 1260	4095
			TTT Phe 1265	Gly					Ser					Leu	4143
			GAG Glu O					Gln					Cys		4191
-		Leu	GGA Gly				Ser					Glu			4239
	Thr		TGT Cys			Gin					Leu			ACA Thr	4287
Leu			CAG GIn		Asp					Asn				TCA Ser 1340	4335
			CAG GIn 1345	Arg					Ser					Leu	4383
			TTC Phe					Thr					Ala		4431
Asp			CTG Leu		Asn					Glu					4479

FIG.41

	Gly					Leu					Thr			AAG J Lys	4527
Asn					Thr					Asp				ATT lle 1420	4575 )
				Leu					Val					AAA Lys 5	4623
			Thr					Leu					Leu	GAT Asp	4671
		Gln					Arg					Leu		GAT Asp	4719
	Gin					Phe					TTT Phe 0				4767
Val					Glu					He	CCA Pro				4815
				Leu					Туг		TCA Ser			He	4863
	He		Lys					Cys			ATC lie		Ala		4911
		Ala					He				CAG GIn 1545	Рго			4959

FIG.4J

		Leu					Gly					Asp		GGA Gly		5007
	Leu			-		Glu					Met			AGA Arg		5055
					Vol					He				CAG GIn 159	GIn	5103
TGC Cys				Asn					Lys							5151
GCT Ala			He					Ala					His			5199
TCT Ser		Glu					Leu					Glu				5247
CCT Pro 1645	Ser					Vol					Arg	,				5295
ACT (					Alo					Val					Ser	5343
GGA A				He					He					Glu		5391
ATT (			Ser					Leu					Tyr			5439

# FIG.4K

	Thr					Leu					Ser			ACG Thr	5487
Glu					Gly					Asn				GAA Glu 1740	5535
				Leu					Gly		CTT Leu			Asp	5583
			Gln					Met			CAG G1n		His		5631
		Gin					Leu				CTG Leu 1785	He			5679
	Ser					Arg					GCC Ala				5727
Arg					Gly					Thr	CTG Leu				5775
				Ser					His		GCC A10			Leu	5823
Trp	Cys	GIn	He	Leu	Leu	Leu	Val	Asn		Thr	GAC Asp		Arg		5871

FIG.4L

			Val					Lys					Ser	AGC Ser		591	19
		Leu					Ser					Asp		GAC Asp		596	57
	Alo					Cys					Val			GGG G1y		601	5
					Asp					Asn				TCC Ser 1915	Glu	606	3
				Leu					He					AGC Ser		611	1
			Pro					Phe					His	CGG Arg		615	9
		Alσ					He					Ser		TGT Cys		620	7
	Leu					Met					Leu			TTG Leu		625	5
					GIn					Leu				GTG Val 1995	Asp	630	3
۱rg	Leu	Leu		Thr	Pro	Phe	Arg	Vol	Leu	Ala	Arg	Met		GAC Asp		635	1

# FIG.4M

			Arg		GTA Val			Leu					Leu			6399
		Alo			CCA Pro		Glu					He				6447
	Gln				CTC Leu 2050	Ala					Arg					6495
					CTC Leu 5					Asp					Ser	6543
				Ser	CAC His				Gly					Ser		6591
			\$er		GAC Asp			Trp					Vol			6639
GIn		Trp			TCA Ser		Ser					Gly				6687
	Asn				GCT Ala 2130	Glu					Phe					6735
					CTG Leu					Leu					Ser	6783
Glu	He	Ser	Gly	Gly	CAG G I n	Lys	Ser	Alo	Leu	Phe	Glu	Ala	Ala	Arg		6831

# FIG.4N

GTG Val			Alo					Thr					Pro			6879
CAT His		Val					Leu					Alo				6927
AGC Ser 2205	Lys					Phe					Leu					6975
CCC Pro					Ala					Leu					Lys	7023
CTG ( Leu l				Leu					Glu					He		<b>707</b> 1
AAA 1 Lys F	Phe		Yal					Ala					Leu			7119
GAG ( Glu (		He					Asp					Leu				7167
TGC ( Cys l 2285	Leu					Pro					Voi					7215
GAG 1 Glu F					Ala					Tyr					He	7263
CTG C				Alo			Pro		Glu					Pro		7311

FIG.40

			Asn					He					Glu		GTA Vol	7359
		Asn		CAG Gin			Lys					Alo				7407
	Ala					Ser					Leu				CAT His 2380	7455
				GGC G1y 238	Val					Thr					Asn	7503
				CTG Leu O					Leu					Thr		7551
			Leu	GTG Vol				Gly					Pro			7599
<b>\s</b> p		Gly		GCA Ala			Glu					Phe				7647
	Glu			AAG Lys		Phe					Asn					7695
				CAG G I n 2465	Phe					Ala					Val	7743
				CCC Pro			Met		Gln					Pro		7791

FIG.4P

			Glu					Asn					Gir		ATC lle	7839
		Leu					Met					Alo			CCA Pro	7887
	Vol					Gin					Lys				GCT Alo 2540	7935
					Gly					He	ATC He					7983
				Gin					Lys		GAG Glu			Alo		8031
CAT His	-		Tyr					Pro					Ser			8079
Thr		Gly					His				CTG Leu 2600	Leu				8127
CCC Pro 2605	Glu					Ser					Leu					8175
ATA He			Val		Leu					Thr					Glu	8223
GAA Glu				Glu			Glu		Alo					Pro		8271

FIG.4Q

			Thr					Ser					GCT Alo 5				8319
		His		_			Phe					Туг	AGC Ser		TGG Trp		8367
	Leu					Alo					Alo		CTG Leu		AGT Ser 2700		8415
GAG Glu					Leu					Asp					Arg	į	8463
AAC Asn				Leu					Leu				CGA Arg 2730	Arg		i	8511
CAC His			Glu					Ala					Pro			i	8559
Cys		Alo					Gly					Val	GCG Alo			{	8607
GTC Val 2765	Ser					Ser					Ser					{	8655
AGG (			Alo		His					Val					Leu	8	3703
CTG ( Leu :				Alo			Leu		Pro					Tyr		8	3751

# FIG.4R

			Leu					His					His		CAG	8799
		Vol					Alo					Leu			AAC Asn	8847
	Pro		GAC Asp			Pro					Ser				ATG Met 2860	8895
			ATG Met		Ser					Ser					He	8943
			GCC Alo 2880	Leu					Arg	_				Glu		8991
-			CTG Leu 5					Leu					Val			9039
Val		Val	CAC His				Arg					Leu				9087
CTC Leu 2925	Thr		ATG Met			Gly					Ser					9135
		_	AAT Asn	_	Alo				_	Glu	_				Ala	9183
ATG Met				Ser			Phe		Arg					Phe		9231

FIG.4S

			Агд					He					Leu		GAC Asp	9	9279
		Pro					Met					Gly			CTG Leu	g	327
	Asn					Pro					Thr			TAT Tyr		9	375
					His					Ser				CGG Arg 303	Asp	9	1423
				Ser					Thr					GTC Vol		9	471
ATG Met			Trp					Phe					Ser			9	519
CCG Pro		Vol			He		Pro	*				Arg				9	567
CTG Leu 3085	Glu					Asn					Val					9	615
TAC Tyr			Gln		Glu			Leu		Arg					Ser	91	663

FIG.4T

GTG CTT GAG GTG GTT GCA GCC CCA GGA AGC CCA TAT CAC CGG CTG CTG Val Leu Glu Val Val Ala Ala Pro Gly Ser Pro Tyr His Arg Leu Leu 3120 3125 3130	9711
ACT TGT TTA CGA AAT GTC CAC AAG GTC ACC ACC TGC T GAGCGCCATG Thr Cys Leu Arg Asn Vol His Lys Vol Thr Thr Cys 3135 - 3140	9758
GTGGGAGAGA CTGTGAGGCG GCAGCTGGGG CCGGAGCCTT TGGAAGTCTG TGCCCTTGTG	9818
CCCTGCCTCC ACCGAGCCAG CTTGGTCCCT ATGGGCTTCC GCACATGCCG CGGGCGGCCA	9878
GGCAACGTGC GTGTCTCTGC CATGTGGCAG AAGTGCTCTT TGTGGCAGTG GCCAGGCAGG	9938
GAGTGTCTGC AGTCCTGGTG GGGCTGAGCC TGAGGCCCTTC CAGAAAGCAG GAGCAGCTGT	9998
CCTGCACCCC ATGTGGGTGA CCAGGTCCTT TCTCCTGATA GTCACCTGCT GGTTGTTGCC	10058
AGGTTGCAGC TGCTCTTGCA TCTGGGCCAG AAGTCCTCCC TCCTGCAGGC TGGCTGTTGG	10118
CCCCTCTGCT GTCCTGCAGT AGAAGGTGCC GTGAGCAGGC TTTGGGAACA CTGGCCTGGG	10178
TOTOCCTOCT GOOGTGTGCA TGCCACGCCC CGTGTCTGGA TGCACAGATG CCATGGCCTG	10238
TGCTGGGCCA GTGGCTGGGG GTGCTAGACA CCCGGCACCA TTCTCCCTTC TCTCTTTTCT	10298
TCTCAGGATT TAAAATTTAA TTATATCAGT AAAGAGATTA ATTTTAACGT AAAAAAAAAA	10358
AAAAAAA	10366

FIG.4U

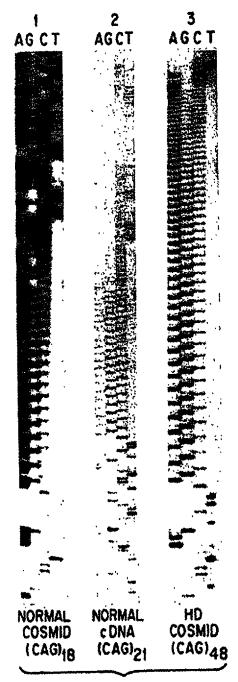


FIG. 5

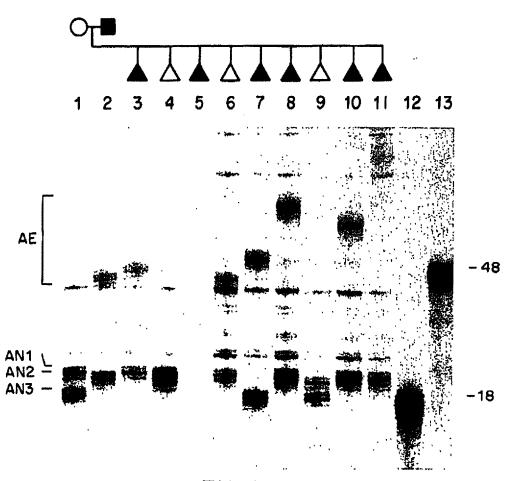
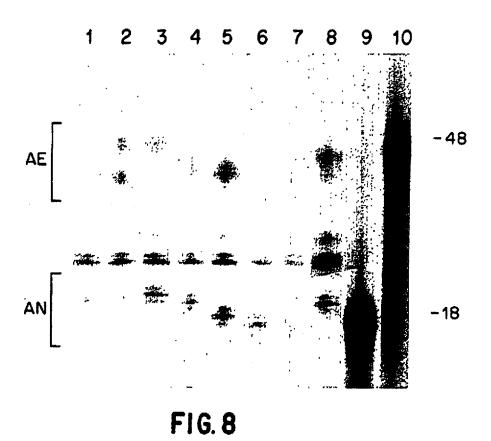


FIG. 6





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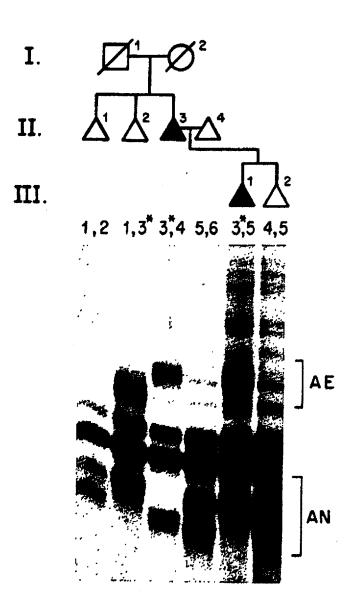


FIG. 9

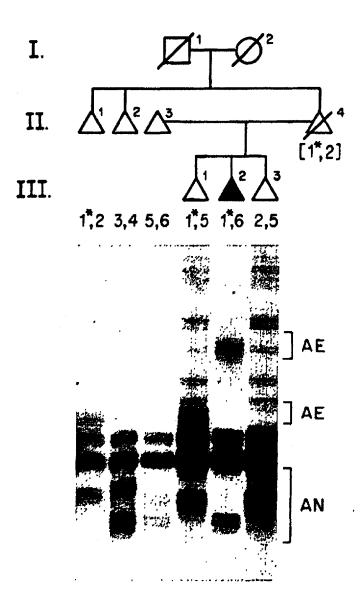
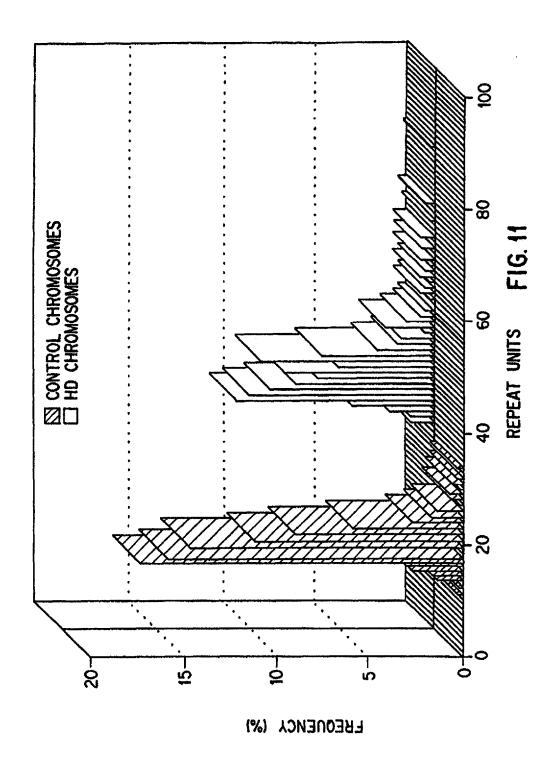
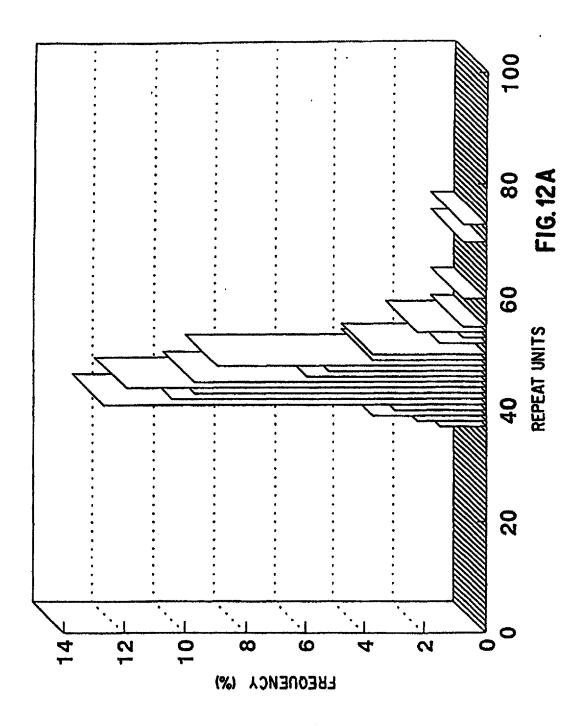
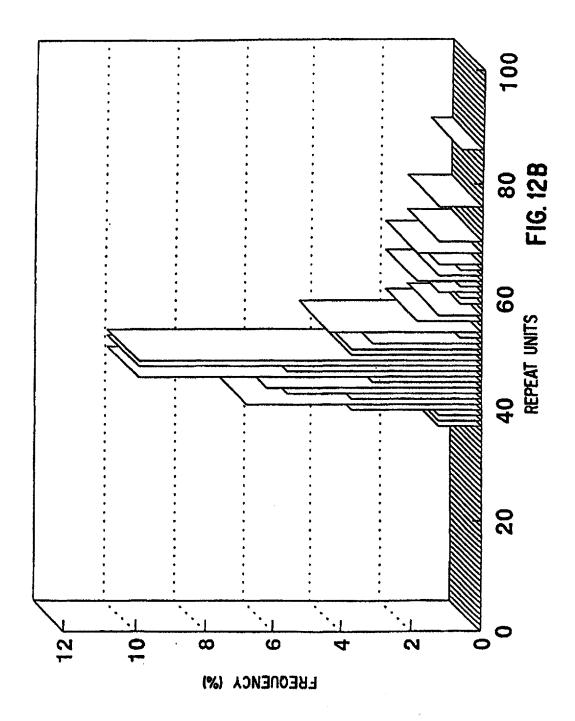
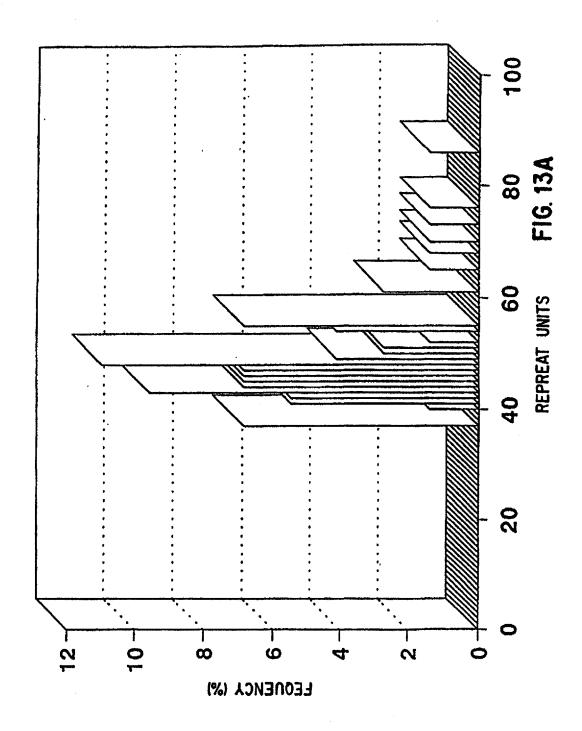


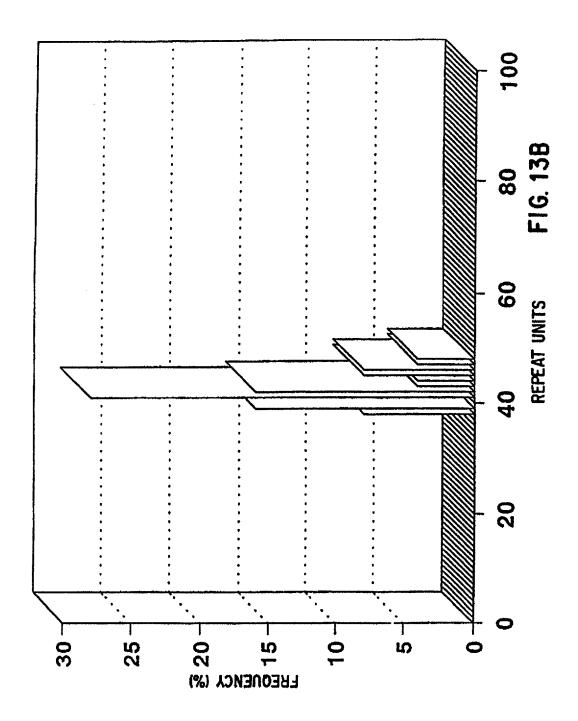
FIG. 10

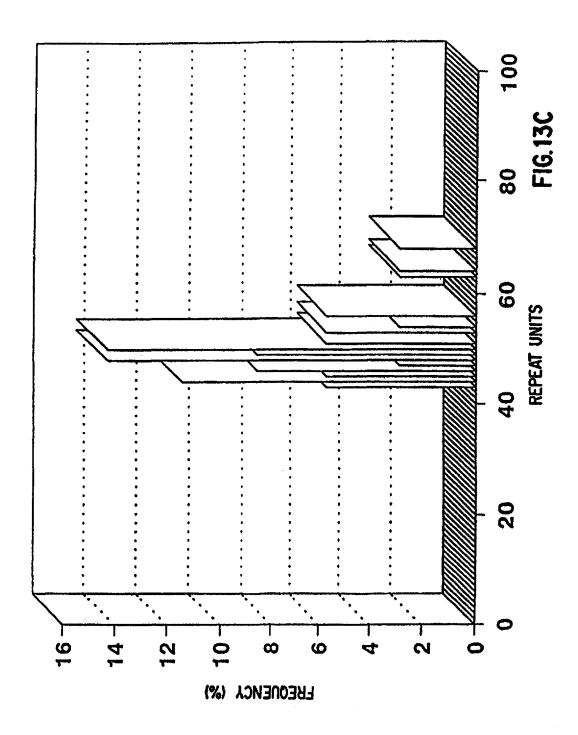


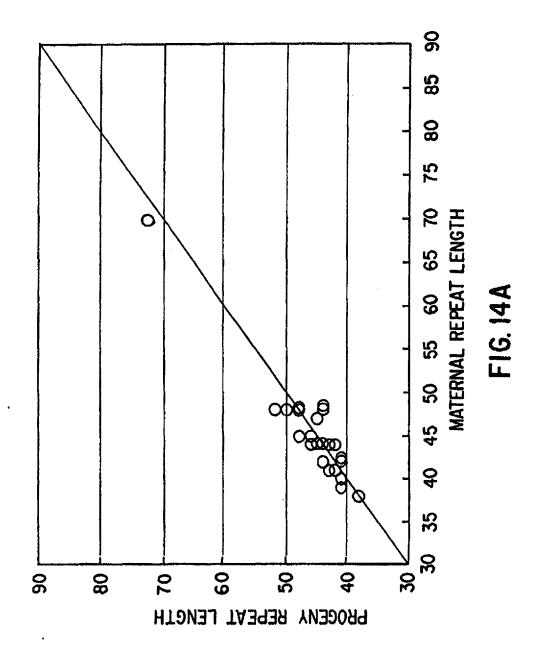


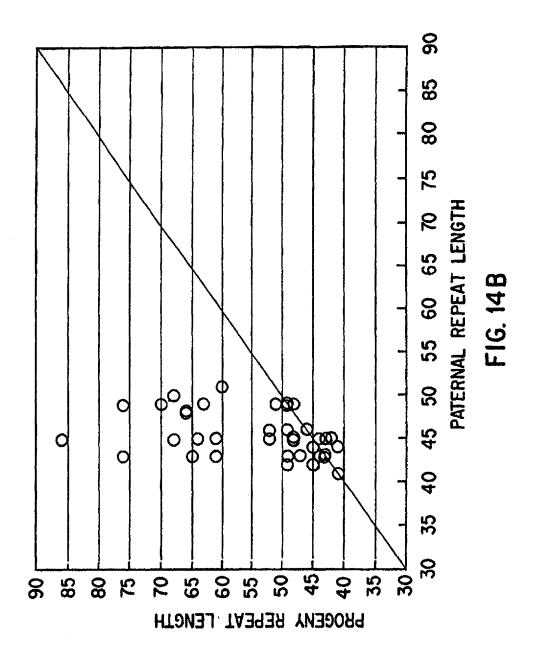


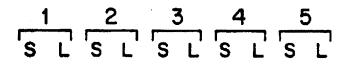












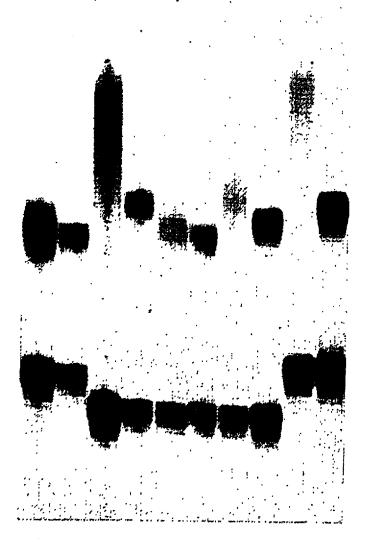


FIG. 15

